SMARTMATIC'S GARCIA At the receiving end

NEWS / A19 WORLD / A26 ACROSS / A18

CA upholds homicide ruling vs ex-Gov Leviste

South Korea says North torpedoed ship

P500M in funds for Maguindanao evacuees missing

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Friday, May 21, 2010 ++ Vol. 25 / No. 142

LOCSIN Applause for his 'SOB' audience in Macao

Noy won't control pork

GMA-approved 2010 budget ties hands of successor

By Christine V. Esguerra and Philip C. Tubeza

THE NEXT PRESIDENT will no longer enjoy the power of the pork that his predecessor did by virtue of a key provision inserted into the General Appropriations Act of 2010, a development that could help determine the leadership and alignments in the incoming 15th Congress.

The hands of presumptive president-elect Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III will be tied by Section 67 of the law, which calls for a "prohibition against impoundment of appropriations," Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman of Lakas-Kampi-CMD said yesterday.

The provision prevents the president from withholding the release of a budget allocation without the approval of both the Senate and the House of Representatives by a simple majority of the quorum.

Lagman, vice chair of the powerful House appropriations committee, said he introduced the provision during the 2009 budget deliberations to "protect the appropriations" approved by Congress.

The pork barrel, formally known as the Priority Develop-

NOYNOY A12

LETTING HIS HAIR DOWN Presumptive President-Elect Benigno Aquino III peppers his speech with jokes before a Wednesday caucus of Liberal Party congressmen, in the main, giving half his Palace workload to running mate Sen. Mar Roxas to keep from losing all his hair. EV ESPIRITU

Comelec on 'koala bears': Stop peddling lies

By Kristine L. Alave, TJ Burgonio and Norman Bordadora

THE MESSAGE OF THE COMMISSION ON Elections to the so-called "koala bear" and its other critics of the May 10 elections: Stop peddling lies.

The Comelec said they were only out to discredit the country's first automated national elections.

Commissioner Gregorio Larrazabal said the critics had been proven wrong by the generally successful balloting.

"All of their statements have been disproved. Yet they continue to peddle lies. You have to stop already. Enough is enough. You have to realize when to stop," Larrazabal said in a press briefing yesterday.

Larrazabal dismissed a suggestion by the

COMELEC A12

Locsin loses it in House over his 'baby'

By Leila B. Salaverria

ELECTION AUTOMATION WAS his baby—except that he didn't expect it would turn into "Bonsanto's baby."

Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin lost his temper and cursed during a hearing at the House of Representatives yesterday, unsatisfied with Smartmatic officials' explanation on why the election results transmitted by the voting machines had different time stamps that did not reflect the actual opening and closing times of the polls.

"You sons of bitches! You fool us standing here guaranteeing to the public and to the world that even if fraud was committed, we would be able to trace it," Locsin said.

"We never said that fraud could not be committed, but you said that we could trace it, and now you tell me, that at 10 in the evening you [referring to hackers] could do it and we would never know," he said.

Several losers, mostly lawmakers seeking reelection, brought up the issue of the time stamp during the hearing.

They noted that while the voting was supposed to begin at 7 a.m. and end at 7 p.m., preti-

LOCSIN A20

'Dear Gloria,' you've got mail (hate), goodbye

LOOK AT WHAT'S CRAWLING ON FACEbook.

A page called "Dear Gloria (Goodbye letters to an outgoing President)" was created on May 18 on the wildly popular

DEAR A20

Noy to take oath before lone SC dissenter

By Philip C. Tubeza

HE'S TAKING HIS OATH BEFORE a lady justice.

Liberal Party standard-bearer Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III said last night that he was inclined to take his oath before Supreme Court Associate Justice Conchita Carpio-Morales since he is proclaimed the new President.

Speaking at a press conference, Aquino said he wanted to take his oath before Morales because she was the lone dissenter in the Supreme Court decision that allowed President Macapagal-Arroyo to appoint Chief Justice Renato Corona.

Aquino also said that he has "put his foot down" and told his supporters to stop jockeying for positions in his administration and that, so far, he was not considering appointing anyone from The Press.

Aquino also told reporters that he was meeting US Ambassador Harry K. Thomas today.

"The one who vetoed against

NOY TO TAKE A20

Poll collection fashioned out of tarpaulins, plastic, bullets

By Frank Cimatu
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—IN HYPERBOLIC parlance, the country's first automated election was a war between plastic posters and tarpaulins. Icons were the paper and cheese cloth streamers in most cities and towns.

This also became a colorful, yet nondecipherable contest.

But now that the polls have ended, a Baguio artist has decided to turn the discarded tarpaulins and posters into high fashion.

Lyndeh Alberto recently launched a line of sculptured dresses at the Tuboan-on International Arts Festival here, stripping tarpaulins to make

POLL COLLECTION A20

Protesters dispersed; Thais still divided

BANGKOK—THAI AUTHORities restored order in Bangkok on Thursday but a ceasefire looked fragile a day after rioting and fires had moved toward an army ex-government troops took control of a camp occupied by anti-government protesters.

The mostly rural and urban poor protesters dubbed the Red Shirts had deserted their once-barricaded rally site in central Bangkok. Hundreds who had taken refuge in a temple were coaxed out by police. Six bodies were found inside.

"Democracy cannot be built on coups and anger," Veera Musikapong, one of the Red Shirt leaders and chair of the United Front for Democracy Against Dictatorship, said in a televised statement while in custody. He called on protesters to go home.

Troops faced heavy resistance overnight by about 1,500 remnants of the Red Shirts, some armed with guns, at the Rad-

PROTESTERS A20

GOING HOME A protester and his son leave a temple where he took refuge during the Thai Army's crackdown. Buildings smoldered across central Bangkok early on Thursday and troops exchanged sporadic fire with pockets of holdouts a day after state troops routed protesters. AP

Foreigners cry with 'Morong 43' in jail visit

By Dyan Bandayrel Ruiz
Correspondent

THERE WAS NOT A DRY EYE when foreigners and locals met on Tuesday with some members of the "Morong 43" detained at Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig City.

Twelve foreigners and members of Manila-based groups gathered around a table in the visiting area with 23 women detainees. Later, they spoke with the male detainees in the hallway outside their cells.

The visitors brought messages of solidarity and were moved to tears as the women talked about their feelings and experiences in detention.

The women also said they

FOREIGNERS A20

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: For whole country: still warmer; partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening

Metro Manila	Partly cloudy	Cebu/Mactan	Partly cloudy
Baguio	Partly cloudy	Davao	Partly cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly cloudy	Iloilo	Partly cloudy
Legaspi	Partly cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly cloudy
Kalibo	Partly cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly cloudy
Puerto Princesa	Partly cloudy	Tacloban	Partly cloudy

Source: Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa)

Second FRONTPAGE

Middle East, Inquirer.net, [illegible] | E-mail: [illegible] | Message to MRT

6/49

15	18
5	6
13	25

SUERTRES

0	4 5
3	5 1
4	0 2

6D LOTTO (Swertres)

5 0 4 2 2 4

6/42 LUZ-VIS-MIN

7 23 24 37 39 42

P24,617,658.60

SUPER LOTTO 6/49

12 15 26 27 33 49

P34,626,312.00

Congress ready for nat'l canvass

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE RULES ARE SET.

Both houses of Congress have finished drafting the rules that would govern their joint session beginning Tuesday to canvass the votes for president and vice president.

Senate Majority Leader Juan Miguel Zubiri yesterday formalized the modalities of the canvass of the votes of the Joint Public Session of Congress, as Canvassing the Votes Cast for President and Vice Presidential Candidates in the May 10, 2010 Elections."

"I just found out today the House version is very similar to the Senate version, except for the additional documents that the House (wants). Like the finalization of the (computed) flash cards," Zubiri said at the Kapihan sa Senado news forum.

"I think that will not be objectionable to the senators and we will agree to that," he said.

The upper chamber has finalized its schedule for the joint session next week.

The Senate will first meet to session at 2 p.m. on Monday to be followed by the formal recognition of the Senate session at 3 p.m. to approve the draft rules on the canvassed canvass.

The joint session begins the following day.

"On Saturday, on Monday, we will use the Senate session morning for a change in our (consumption) calendar from May 31 to May 24," Zubiri said.

The Senate is confident of convening a quorum for the canvass, Zubiri said.

At the joint session, the two chambers will separately elect a nine-member panel to serve as members of the special committee to canvass the votes, with Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile and Speaker Prospero Nograles as the presiding officers.

"Senate President Enrile wants to be presiding officer of the joint session as well as the joint special committee that will be formed," said Zubiri, who added he would be happy to take the role of "spare tire of the Senate President if he needs to recuse his seat for a while."

In your national canvassing, the majority leaders of both the Senate and House served as co-chairs of the special canvassing committee.

Issues of technicality may be raised on Tuesday prior to the actual canvassing.

"If (the rules are) technically the same, then we won't have a wide-ranging debate on the rules. But if there are some fundamental questions raised by the members of both houses, then we will have to entertain those questions," Zubiri said.

He said he expects the lawmakers to accommodate matters such as the swearing of a whistle-blower who intended to murder cheating by the automated elections.

"They may want to introduce amendments, for example, with the advent of this 'hello boss.' They may want to include in the rules (the manner of addressing the allegations), so it's possible we'll have a debate on that. But overall, in my view, Tuesday will be a light day."

Erap wary of Mr. Noted

By Christine V. Esguerra

SO WHO'S AFRAID OF "Mr. Noted?"

The camp of ousted President Joseph Estrada is worried that Arroyo it plans to raise over the integrity of the May 10 automated elections may be his weight during the official canvassing process that will start next week.

Estrada's election lawyer, George Garcia, yesterday expressed concern their complaints might end up just being "noted," as happened when Sen. Francis Pangilinan protested over the canvassing of votes for president and vice president in 2004.

The opposition labeled Pangilinan "Mr. Noted" for uttering the word after every complaint or allegation of cheating was raised by supporters of actor Fernando Poe Jr. who lost the election to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

ESTRADA

PANGILINAN

GMA ally

Pangilinan then was allied with Ms Arroyo.

"We hope the new rules will not allow a Mr. Noted," Garcia told the lawyers in a phone interview.

Congress—the Senate and the House of Representatives—will convene on May 24 to canvass the votes for president and vice president in the May 10 election. Both chambers will also reconcile their respective tabus on canvassing at the time.

Garcia said the Senate rules simply call for it to "note" motions seeking to examine certain documents like election returns to validate official results. The House rules, on the other hand, are more open to the extent that they allow for the opening of ballot boxes, he said.

"The rules of canvass will determine who the new president will be," Garcia said.

He, however, admonished that even political alliances may be forged during the congressional canvass, what with Benigno Aquino III presumed to be the president-elect.

He said a realignment of forces would affect the canvassing.

"We know that (if) some, those who stand to be against (a certain politician) would end up being his ally. You know those things happen when there's a change in administration," he said.

No solid evidence

Garcia, however, admitted the Estrada camp had yet to come up with "substantial" evidence that would show massive cheating in the polls.

"I admit that our evidence is not yet that substantial," he said.

"You will have to distinguish what evidence you can use to question the canvass results," he added, explaining that what they had so far could be easily countered.

The nurturing of a masked whistle-blower did not necessarily help Estrada's cause, he said.

"The problem is his evidence is incomplete. He should insist earnest. He should identify the people he was in cahoots with," the lawyer said.

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Oki P14.00

Eat Well Spend Less

Pinoys safe in Thailand

By Cynthia D. Balana

FILIPINOS IN THAILAND ARE SAFE ALthough the political situation there remains tense and would likely be so for the next couple of days, the Philippine embassy in Bangkok reported yesterday.

In a report to the home office, the embassy said it was closely monitoring the situation and was prepared to extend additional assistance to Filipinos there when necessary.

As of 9 a.m. yesterday, the embassy has not received information on any Filipino national getting hurt or being in danger because of the political turmoil," Philippine ambassador to Bangkok Antonio V. Taduyo said.

HOTEL FIRE AFTERMATH

QC engineer's dismissal upheld

By Jerome Aning

THE COURT OF APPEALS has affirmed a decision of the Office of the Ombudsman dismissing a Quezon City engineer for administrative lapses in connection with the Manor Hotel fire in 2001 that left 74 people dead.

The court's Special 12th Division found engineer Bernardito Bautista, currently assigned to the technical assistance committee in the mayor's office, guilty of gross negligence and conduct prejudicial to the best interests of the service.

Bautista was the senior building inspector officer in the QC engineering department when the fire took place. He had earlier appealed the guilty verdict meted out against by the Ombudsman in 2006.

The appellate court dismissed Bautista' contention that the Ombudsman had no jurisdiction to file charges in the absence of a complaint, noting the approval of the Manor Hotel's business permits for 2000 and 2001 despite the lack of a fire safety inspection, sprinkler and certificate of electrical inspection.

"All have carefully scrutinized the records and found sufficient evidence to support the findings of the Ombudsman that petitioner was grossly negligent in the performance of his official functions, thereby sanctioning the disposal from the service," said the appeals court in a 13-page decision penned by division chair Associate Justice Bienvenido Reyes.

Concurring in the ruling were Associate Justices Mariflor Punzalan Castillo and Danton Bueser.

The court cited an order of the city engineer's office under which Bautista was tasked to recommend approval of all building occupancy and other ancillary permits as well as approval of mechanical, electrical, sanitary and signboard permits.

Bautista said it was not part of his job then as a senior building inspection officer to conduct verification inspection on whether the Manor had complied with the structural safety requirements mandated by law.

He said he was not part of responsible for monitoring the annual inspection of the Manor to determine if its electrical and structural systems and other facilities were safe. He said it was also not his job to issue sprinklers in both the structural and electrical systems of the hotel.

PPCRV closes command center

By Tarra Quismundo

HAVING SHUT DOWN ITS COMMAND center for the May 10 elections, the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) will be spending the next three weeks validating the poll results by manually checking them against 4 percent copies of printed election returns (ERs).

Chief of Staff Joaquin Henares, PPCRV secretary general, said the PPCRV, the accredited citizens' arm, has scheduled data analysis in the next three weeks. Volunteers will manually encode printed copies of election returns (ERs) and consolidation results from electronic data, he said.

The PPCRV started sending dozens to upwards of 1,000 volunteers to each of the city engineer's office under which Bautista was tasked to recommend approval of all building occupancy and other ancillary permits as well as approval of mechanical, electrical, sanitary and signboard permits.

Bautista said it was not part of his job then as a senior building inspection officer to conduct verification inspection on whether the Manor had complied with the structural safety requirements mandated by law.

He said he was not part of responsible for monitoring the annual inspection of the Manor to determine if its electrical and structural systems and other facilities were safe. He said it was also not his job to issue sprinklers in both the structural and electrical systems of the hotel.

PICKING UP Volunteers of the PPCRV pack up and prepare a contrast plot after the night's automated count

MIGUEL DE GUZMAN

Validation

"In the next three weeks, we will continue encoding everything and then we will finish the data. We will compare to the last drop," Henares said.

The PPCRV's validation process, comparable to results based on data transmitted electronically from voting machines to consolidating servers and the printed per canvassing.

The operation is separate from the manual audit process that consists in counting votes from ballots in randomly selected precincts for comparison with electronic results.

The PPCRV has in the meantime compiled 2,000 file and consolidated electronic results from 90.2 percent of precincts nationwide. Its server will be able to update the consolidated results in three days.

The PPCRV has compared data from 45,895 precincts and found discrepancies in the results from 29 precincts, a proportion that PPCRV officials considered too small to indicate that any fraud occurred in the country's first automated polls.

"It's been a success because we were able to meet our objectives," Henares said.

In the course of its election monitoring, the PPCRV deployed close to a million volunteers nationwide, mobilizing its presence to some 97 percent of polling precincts nationwide on election day and monitoring the distribution of voting machines to the precincts.

Four volunteers were turned to the limit because the time they had to monitor every step in the transportation of COCs (precinct-count optical scan) machines. But what's good with our volunteers is that their volunteerism is based on values," Bonoan said in a phone interview.

For its diminished operations, the PPCRV has enlisted the services of volunteers from Arts and Letters in Motion (Manila). They will be consolidating and updating election data from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily in the next three weeks.

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Joey de V accepts loss, calls for unity

By Norman Bordadora

PHESSIA SO MAsong Filipino senatorial candidate from de Venecia III has called for unity behind the incoming administration for the country to finally move forward.

De Venecia, who ran under the party of former President Joseph Estrada, finds the call after finishing well outside the top 12 in the recent senatorial elections.

"Upon the realization of our electoral processes in Congress, I urge all to unite under our duly-elected leadership regardless of party and beliefs," De Venecia said in a statement.

"There is much more that needs to be done for our people, and only if we will be able to do this more quickly and effectively if we are united as one nation," he added.

De Venecia, an information technology businessman who knew the whole ins on the unexpected Philippine SMS CTE victory, vowed to continue his advocacy against corruption as a private citizen.

"I am deeply aware of the trust and responsibility bestowed on me by almost nine million voters, and while in the private sector, I will continue my fight against corruption and for the development of our less privileged sectors," De Venecia said.

He also vowed to continue his advocacy and proper development agenda in the private sector particularly in the fields of information technology and information technology.

"I wish to thank the many millions of friends, supporters, and family members who helped me in the course of my first political campaign. We were successful in running an issue-based campaign waged with love only," De Venecia said.

"Meanwhile, I wish to congratulate those who have been proclaimed as winners by the Commission on Elections," he added.

Maranaos want Lanao polls reset

ILIGAN CITY—MAnatao leaders in Lanao del Sur are opposing the May 29 schedule of special elections in seven towns because a lull on a Friday, an Islamic holy day.

"We are appealing that it be moved to another date. We hope the Comelec (Commission on Elections) would recognize our religious sensibilities," said Abbusa of the Ranao Study for Peace and Sustainable Development, said.

Abbusa said the seven towns "are predominantly if not entirely Muslim" and holding the balloting on a Friday was not sensible.

The Comelec en banc has declared a ballot of election and subsequently ordered that special polls be held in the towns of Lumba-Bayabao, Lumbatan, Tugaya, Marogong, Saliao, Dalabdab, Bubong, Taberas, Marantao and Bayang.

The balloting failed to push through in those towns on May 10 largely because of security concerns and some administrative hitches.

Accounting for over 70,000 registered voters, the elections in the seven towns will no longer affect the outcome of votes for national positions but would be significant to the contests for the provincial and congressional seats, the Comelec said.

"We are filing a petition to have another schedule," Abdullah Dalidig of the Islamic Movement for Electoral Reform and Good Governance (IMERGG) said.

Dilimar, a town in Sarang town, said poll turnout could be affected if the May 28 schedule pushes through. Ryan S. Rosauro, Inquirer Mindanao

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Party-list allies to give GMA 'leverage' in House–Bayan

By Hilden Diwa

THE MILITANT Bayan Muhabarar (Bayan) has warned that party-list groups allied with President Macapagal-Arroyo are poised to take 12 reserved seats in the House of Representatives which could then be used by Mrs Arroyo as "leverage" against future prosecution.

"The party-list system will be used by Arroyo to join more allies in the lower House and to get more leverage against those who will try to go after her when her term ends," Bayan secretary-general Renato Reyes Jr said in a statement.

He said the Commission on Elections (Comelec) "should be made accountable for the mess that has befallen the party-list system."

50 seats

The law requires the Comelec to fill up 50 House seats reserved for party-list groups.

According to Reyes, the despicable fraternal politicians Bayan and Mtrl against party-list organizations it considered "dubious" were denied by the Comelec.

Bayan supports the Bayan Muna militant party-list group that did not do as well as expected in the last elections, compared to its performance in past elections.

Reyes said that Ms Arroyo could actually be in line of her own among the party-list members in the House.

Her son, outgoing Pampanga Representative Mikey Arroyo, being the first nominee of Ang Kasalang Pinoy, a group formed supporting outgoing guards, is likely to get into one.

Another frontrunner is Abs Bicol, a party-list group alleged to have links with a brazed Arroyo connection from Bicol, which is likely to get the most seats from both.

Bicol, a party-list group whose nominees come from prominent families in Camarines and Pangasinan, allegedly allied with the administration, is accused of pulling out not just twelve seats, but two, said Reyes.

Also included in Reyes's list of suspected "dubious" groups are Bantay Laylayan Corruption and Poverty Coalition; Kinatagan ni Kasalanan; led by supposed presidential opponent Eddie Gutierrez; and Coconut party. Aside the officials' group Pwersa ng Bayaning Atleta, one of whose nominee is Mikee Reyes, actress-son of former city Lito Atienza and Jaguar Tsuyoshi Bocobo, a group that was cited as a Malacañang movie-members-in-ethics-session called.

"If likely, Homer energy secretary Angelo Reyes will get a congressional seat via 1-Ako. He is also expected to align with his former boss," Reyes said.

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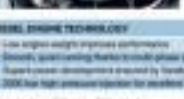

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The Firm hits back at Chavez

Party-list victors will have to wait

By Katrina Abare

PARTYLIST CONTENDERS WILL HAVE to wait until next week to see if they've gained a slot in the House of Representatives as the poll body said the canvassing for the party-list contest has slowed down due to the House hearings on the May 10 automated elections.

Commission on Elections (Comelec) Commissioner Gregorio Larrazabal said the revelations of the vote called Bebot about the alleged election irregularities has thrown a monkey wrench in the canvassing schedule.

The poll body initially scheduled the proclamation of the winning party for this week. But because of the hearings at the House about the alleged election fraud, it was likely that the canvassing and proclamation would be finished next week, latest by next week.

The poll body's proclamation will be delayed. Instead of "at being able to do our job, we can't do that because we have to go to the House of Representatives," Larrazabal explained.

By Dazmin L. Lazaro

UNDER FIRE FROM CRITICS FOR purportedly positioning itself to grab an influential role in the incoming Aquino administration, the Villaraza Cruz Marcelo and Angeles Law Office yesterday hit back as one of the former of those critics.

The law office known as "The Firm" accused former Solicitor General Frank Chavez of trying to win—at their expense—an appointment in the Cabinet of President-apparent Benigno Aquino III as the secretary of justice.

"There is no excuse for attorney Chavez's bitter tirades against The Firm," said senior partner Alejandro Alfonso E. Navarro in an interview with The Standard.

"His greed and justifiable motives can possibly be behind this —only professional jealousy or perhaps an ego issued the BOO post, or both, can put some sense into his lunacies and irrational character with The Firm," he said.

Eyeing DOJ

Chavez has accused senior members of the Villaraza law office of positioning themselves for plum posts in the next administration, specifically Andrew Catoy Jr. who, he claimed, is eyeing the justice portfolio, and former Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo who purportedly seems to be appointed to the Judicial and Bar Council.

Navarro said that instead of attacking The Firm, Chavez should simply send his resume to Aquino's search committee "so that it may stand side by side with those partners of The Firm he defames himself to for equal with."

"His tainted, divided esthetic, for proper personalities, his record as solicitor general, which has been undeniably called 'embarrassed' by those in the know," he said, alluding to the decisive phrase "unbecomingly vacuous" used to describe lawyers with opposite leanings.

Navarro, who said he was speaking on behalf of all the lawyers of The Firm who have not held public office, said there was "nothing sour" in Chavez's latest tirades.

Vintage Frank Chavez

"The rashes and viciousness of language is vintage Frank Chavez," he said. "The timing of these attacks is also not surprising. It is opportunistic season for the incoming administration and diminished jobs against perceived appointments to government are par for the course."

Navarro urged Chavez to direct his attention at The Firm's partners who had held public office while sparing the rest of the law office's partners.

"A line has to be drawn when libel extends to private individuals and firms," he said. "If tomorrow Chavez has crossed that line."

DOCTORATE FOR TYCOON. Dr. Doris Gonzaga (right), president of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP), confers an honorary degree on Rizalista philanthropist Emmanuel Lacaba during the Manila university's commencement exercises at the World Trade Center as PUP's wife, Carmen, looks on. In his remarks before the graduates, Tan said a successful career can only be achieved through hard work, discipline and prudence.

Victims' kin hit Sulpicio renaming

By Jovanie Aning

THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS OF THE sunken Princess of the Stars have filed a petition with the Securities and Exchange Commission opposing the amendment of articles of incorporation that enables the ship's owner, Sulpicio Lines Inc. (SLI), to change its corporate name.

The families, which learned of the name change belatedly said SLI's change of its corporate name to Philippine Span Asia Carrier Corp. (PSACC), appeared to be "fraudulent and has for its purpose defeating (their) claims".

In their petition, the families and relatives of the deceased passengers of the Princess of the Stars said that they came to learn of the change when they were informed that SLI had filed an application before the Maritime Industry Authority to change its corporate name so it appears on the certificate of public convenience.

The petitioners said the move was "an indication that the respondent and its officers are doing everything to avoid their liability to the victims of its vessel."

Transfer of 15 cops in massacre sought

By Jaila M. Aurelio

FIRE PROSECUTORS FIRE asked a Quezon City court to order the transfer of 15 policemen linked to the Maguindanao massacre to Camp Crame, citing threats to their lives after they expressed willingness to become witnesses for the prosecution.

In an urgent motion, prosecutors of the Department of Justice sought the transfer of the policemen to the Philippine National Police Custodial Center in Camp Crame, saying they would be better protected there.

The policemen are among the 197 accused in the Nov. 23, 2009 Maguindanao massacre, which left 57 people dead, and are currently detained at the Quezon City Jail Annex inside the Metro Manila District Jail in Camp Bagong Diwa, Bicutan City.

The 15 policemen are: Chief Inspector Dicky SPO2 Medard Rafael; SPO1 Edmundo Cirig PO3s Nida Fesario Jr. Antonio Lucal, Mohaimen Abdhulary PO2s Randy Suan, Jun Nasa Hussin Sinsuat Hajji, Hussin Mamalad Sinsuat Hajji, Forum Gaming Concepts; by PO1s Ismael Gumbi, Abdullah Bagondang, Ispredito Lejarso, Harith Ampuan and Michael Madaig.

Assistant Chief State Prosecutor Rafael Anthony Padilla said the 15 expressed a desire to be state witnesses.

The DOJ said it received a report on April 22, 2010, that Rafael, one of the policemen, wrote Philippine National Police chief Gen. Jesus Versoza claiming that Andal Ampatuan Jr., and his father, Andal Ampatuan Sr., who are accused of leading the massacre, threatened him with harm if he did not sign a document pointing to relatives Rasid Sungkit as one of the men who carried out the massacre.

"The above named 15 accused who are prospective prosecution witnesses are requesting that they be returned to the PNP Custodial Center, away from accused Andal Jr. and their kin," the motion, filed on May 19, said.

The motion pointed out that keeping the prospective witnesses together with the other accused would make them vulnerable to physical harm, serious threats and psychological pressure.

NOTICE AND CLARIFICATION TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that **"WOW FIESTA"** is a registered trademark of **IN-A-JIFFY ENTERPRISES**.

Our client, **IN-A-JIFFY ENTERPRISES**, an **AUTHORIZED DISTRIBUTOR** of the **WOW VIDEOKE** brand of videoke products, issue this clarification to the public in view of certain claims being made as to the authenticity and legality of the **"WOW FIESTA"** brand.

We therefore take this opportunity to inform the public that **"WOW FIESTA"** is a duly registered trademark with the Intellectual Property Office, with **Certificate of Registration Number: 4-2009-006762**.

Likewise, our client wishes to assure the public that they have taken all measures to ensure that all necessary authorities, clearances and permits from the Philippine Government, as well as private third parties have been secured, to ensure that they are bringing the best quality videoke products to the Filipino consumer.

Jaromay Laurente Pamaos Law Offices
6th Floor, One Joroma Place Congressional Avenue corner San Beda Street
1106 Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, May 21, 2010
7th Week of Easter
Christopher Magallanes

1st Reading: Acts 25:13b-21
Gospel: Jn 21:15-19

After Jesus and his disciples had finished breakfast, he said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." And Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." A second time Jesus said to him, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" And Peter answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." And he said a third time to him, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was saddened because Jesus asked him a third time, "Do you love me?" and he said, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus then said, "Feed my sheep. I tell you most truly, when you were young you put on your own clothes and went where you liked. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and somebody will put a belt around you and lead you where you do not want to go."

Jesus said this to make known the kind of death by which Peter was to glorify God. And he added, "Follow me."

Commentary

"Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these others do?" No, Lord, he answered, you know that I do."

Jesus said to him, "Take care of my lambs."

The point is clear:

If Jesus loves more than I

must love those others Jesus loves

and show's caring care of every moment in life.

The great spiritual questions, then, is do I?

And if I say Yes, how will I showing it?

St. Joseph Academy-Quezon reunion

THE ANNUAL alumni homecoming of St. Joseph Academy (SJA) in Infanta, Quezon, will be held on exposition May 22.

Registration starts at 7:30 a.m., to be followed by a motorcade at 9 a.m., and a Mass to be officiated by school chaplain Msgr. Noe Lorenzo and Fathers Angelo Fronda and Aaron Abril. SJA grade school graduates, at 10:30 a.m.

A program will be held at 1 p.m. The day will be capped by ballroom dancing starting at 7 p.m.

The SJA homecoming is an occasion for graduates to pledge financial support for the rehabilitation of the school and the alumni association such as the scholarship and outreach programs and provide projects.

This year's theme is "Taking Time: Togetherness in Transformation in Christ" to highlight the importance of togetherness in the rehabilitation of SJA.

For 2010, the alumni association is supporting the renovation of the school chapel and the repair of the roof of a classroom.

The homecoming hosts are 1B Class 1960 and the Silver Jubilarians, with their special participation of 1B Class 1985.

The batteries are the Classes of 1925, 1930, 1935, 1940, 1950, 1955, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1990, 1995, 2000 and 2005.

For inquiries, contact Ms. Angelita Imperio, PBM (+6342 9182), or Jean Calderon-Miranda (+6349 8 281-2014 or 0918-9-Expand code).

WHAT WENT BEFORE

THE 2010 GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS Act is a Republic Act. No. 9970, which was signed by President Macapagal-Arroyo on Feb. 11, requires the President to release all budgetary allocations provided for in the law.

Section 67 of the general provisions of the law, titled "Prohibition Against Impoundment of Appropriations," states that only two circumstances can prevent the President from releasing funds:

• When the President submits a proposal to Congress to suspend or permanently withhold the release of a particular appropriation item and Congress does not act on the proposal within 45 calendar days from its submission to the Senate President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, unless during the period the Congress by a concurrent resolution denies or rejects the proposal by a vote of a simple majority of the quorum. Provided, however, that the time covered by the periods of nonsession of Congress shall not be reckoned in the computation of the 45-day period.

• When the President temporarily defers the release of a particular appropriation item upon prior written notice to Congress, through the Senate President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, which deferment shall subsist unless Congress stops or revokes the deferment in a concurrent resolution adopted by a simple majority of the quorum.

The approved budget amounts to P1.54 trillion, 8 percent or 220 billion higher than the P1.420-trillion budget for 2009. — Inquirer Research

Source: 2010 General Appropriations Act, abridged

Noynoy won't control pork, says budget law

From page A1

ment Assistance Fund (PDAF), comes from the national budget and funds legislators' pet projects like roads, school buildings and day-care centers. It has long been touted to be a source of kickbacks and campaign funds for lawmakers.

A senator is entitled to P200 million in PDAF every year and a member of the House, P70 million.

Fight for speakership

President Macapagal-Arroyo has used the PDAF as a carrot and stick, rewarding it to friendly and withholding it to pressure opposition lawmakers, especially after impeachment complaints were filed against her starting in 2005.

In the past, lawmakers from different political parties, especially in the House, usually joined the administration party or coalitions after elections to ensure that they get their pork barrel.

Legarda said Aquino would not be able to dangle the pork to convince lawmakers to join the Liberal Party, which is now considering its forces in ensuring that the next Speaker would come from its ranks.

"The political party of the president-approved runner automatically has the numbers—if the PDAF is to be the issue—to prevent members from other parties who refuse to join the Liberal Party," Legarda said.

Confident of victory

He made the morning Twitt-down but at the prayer of the pols, Quezon City Mayor Sherwin "Sonny" Belmonte is confident of becoming Speaker. He won a congressional seat in the May 10 elections and has been declared the Liberal Party's official candidate for the speakership.

He said on Wednesday night he would get the support of not only some 30 Lakas "originals" but also of party-list, Nacionalista Party (NP) and Nationalist People's Coalition contingents in the House.

Belmonte said he had even talked to the NP president, Sen. Manuel Villar, who organized a breakaway group from Lakas-Kampi-CMD party is also consolidating its forces and has floated the idea of pushing Mr. Arroyo, who won a congressional seat in Pampanga, to run for Speaker.

Legarda made it clear that the new pork provision was not intended to slip the power of Aquino.

"No. When that was passed, he wasn't even a candidate. He was not in the running. For all you know, he never imagined he would be a president-elect," he told the lawyers.

No objection from Aquino

Legarda pointed out that the pork provision passed without any protest from Aquino himself. "He did not object to that (when) he was part of the appropriating body," he said.

In an e-mail to the lawyers, Legarda said: "The provision is anti-impoundment was not an expository of the outcome of the 2010 elections because it was incorporated in the general appropriations bill in mid-2009 long before the filing of certificates of candidacy and the onset of the political campaign."

He said Mr. Aquino subpoenaed Section 67 is a conditional re-

THE TAKADA WAY Ati-atihan Party kalibunan director Quezon Rep. Erin Tañada (second from right) gives way to Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte (fourth from right), as the party's candidate for House Speaker.

MARTIN DIMAPILIS

vote, which did not necessarily kill the lawmakers' power to block any move by the President to impound an allocation, including the pork barrel.

In her radio message to Congress, Ms. Arroyo gave the following conditions: "Release of the increased items of appropriations is subject to the identification by Congress of new, revenue measures to support such increase."

Legarda explained: "Since the PDAF is not sourced from reductions in interest payments, it falls under the general rule provided for by Section 67 that the President shall release all budgetary allocations provided for in the [General Appropriations Act]."

Formidable, not invincible

In the battle for the speakership, Belmonte considers Mr. Arroyo a strong but not an insurmountable opponent.

"Mr. Arroyo is very formidable person. I've known that. I needed statistics to assure that (my) team. You cannot take anything for granted (with his) seven opponents," Belmonte told reporters at the Liberal Party center in Cubao, Quezon City.

"Don't (be too) confident ... It's looking good," he added.

The ruling Lakas-Kampi-CMD coalition has said that it might have another candidate for Speaker because Mr. Arroyo wanted to have a role similar to that of Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile's Congress Party.

100 in LP coalition

At the party caucus held at the Liberal Party headquarters in Quezon City, Belmonte was reportedly endorsed by around 30 members after Quezon Rep. Erin Tañada gave way to him.

"We will support him, we will campaign for him and I am confident that he will emerge as the Speaker," said Iloilo Rep. Manuel Mona II, Liberal Party president.

As of Wednesday night, lawmakers said the Liberal Party's CORE (Consensus and Reform) coalition in the House of Representatives has already 100 members. He said he expected more Lakas members to join the coalition.

"I was given a list of those who attended their last caucus and it included a lot of people who have been talking with me, to be honest about it," he said.

Belmonte said he was not just talking to the "Lakas originals" but also to around 60 congressmen who were with him in the 11th Congress and who have won seats in the incoming 15th Congress.

"These people have known me, trusted me and worked with me. It's really an advantage," he added.

Belmonte said that the Liberal Party was also in talks with the Nacionalista Party and Nacionalist People's Coalition for a possible coalition in the House.

Meeting arranged by Villar

The Nacionalista Party has 23 lawmakers in the House, while the Nationalist People's Coalition has around 30 for now.

"To Sen. Tito, I've talked to Senator Villar. I've talked to him and if, true to (the) pact (on a) small group together. I talked with them. I think it is a matter now. We are all looking forward," Belmonte said.

He said that he also recently talked with 10 congressmen, independents and some from the former President Joseph Estrada's forces—in San Juan.

"I think everyone has a chance to think it over. We have a few more weeks to do it before the prescriptive time of Sen. Boying (Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile)," Belmonte said.

Tañada said the Liberal Party was well on its way to getting 144 or more allies in the incoming 15th Congress to beg the speakership. The House has 285 seats, including 57 (20 percent) for party-list groups.

He said he withdrew his bid to back Belmonte for the party's candidate for speaker so that his friends in the party would not have to choose between him and Belmonte.

"The issue is to consolidate our efforts for July 25, 2010, when we elect the Speaker," Tañada told reporters. *With reports from Leila B. Salaverria and Jimel Sarmiento*

Comelec on 'koala bear' and other critics: Stop peddling lies

From page A1

Coalition for People Empowerment and Governance to allow a third party to examine the conduct of the elections.

Comelec spokesperson James Jimenez said that the center's proposal may have been an offshoot of the allegations of a masked witness, who identified himself as "Sakay" but who called during a House hearing a "koala bear" because of his appearance in a video tape.

The video was shown on Tuesday during a news forum held by Mr. Macalintal. Witness-relator Thelmo Luis Cortanista Jr., son of Ferdinand Jesspher Systems Chair Thelmo Cortanista and business columnist Belinda Olivares-Cortanista, said critics of presidential bet runner Benigno Aquino III.

"Too many people are willing to mess up the hamletsquare without even analyzing the statements made, without even considering actually if they deserve credence or not and if they're doable," Lorenzana said.

Jimenez noted that Robin's story had plenty of "inherent inconsistencies." It was apparent that the source was an knowledgeable insider on the poll system and called senator PGMA a tool in the balloting.

Palace fears delays

Secretary Ricardo Saludo, presidential spokesperson, said concerns raised under the circumstances should allegations of fraud delay the canvassing of votes for president and vice president and their proclamation.

He agreed with calls by the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting to schedule Hoover to control concrete evidence.

"In no system, the burden of proof for any allegation lies with the accuser," Saludo said. "The Palace certainly subscribes to that principle."

"These discrepancies and concerns may be best brought to the bodies that are constituted to address election protests and election violations," Saludo told a news briefing.

Proper transition

"The canvassing and proclamation should proceed as scheduled to clear the way for a proper transition" from President Macapagal-Arroyo to her successor and a "new government" by noon of June 30, he said.

Saludo did not rule out the possibility that the House of Representatives might spend too much time investigating the fraud charges to the extent that this might delay the canvassing and proclamation of the president and the vice president.

"We're talking about tens of millions of votes that were tabulated in the elections. I think we should be careful about just discrediting all of that on the basis of one person's word and discrepancies in what were to be a small number of documents and machines," he said.

Group's data

Leading two presidential candidates in most Binay surveys welcomed the House investigation into Robin's allegations that he paid P14.4 billion to rig the balloting.

Like Aquino, Binay's spokesperson, told the business group Bantay Eleksyon that the Makati mayor supported calls for changes to be filed in the proper forum in connection with the fraud allegations by the masked witness.

"Let's pursue it to the logical end," Antonio said. "Whether there is evidence or not, let the proper charges be filed. To find if there is or is not any merit presented, the allegations can already be determined."

Binay running mate of former President Joseph Estrada, has denied the accusations, maintaining that he lead in the nearly 100 surveys by over his closest rival, Sen. Mar Roxas of Aquino's Liberal Party, was a result of clean fight ing.

Antonio said that the Binay camp was considering filing a libel complaint against Mr. Saludo to file a libel case against a John Doe."

Lawyer Norberto Nieto Jr., vice presidential candidate of Sen. Eddie Villanueva, (senior citizens) said he was withdrawing his earlier contention of fraudulent automated election system in the incoming 15th Congress.

"These people have known me, trusted me and worked with me. It's really an advantage," he added.

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HOUSE SUBPOENA Comelec Commissioner Gregorio Larrazabal (center) talks with Comelec spokespersons James Jimenez (left), and Commissioners Christian Lim and Elias Yusoph during Thursday's hearing on poll fraud at the House.

KATE JAVIER

HERE LIES TRUTH They seem to tell his whole truth but complain they only hear "lies" in the hearing of the House committee on suffrage and reforms. From right are the chair of the proceedings Comelec's Lucenito Tagle, Jose Melo, Rene Sarmiento, Jose Tolentino with Senator Arroyo's Eduardo Cuenca and Haidee Garcia.

MARTIN DIMAPILIS

Cops must work their way up the ladder–PNP

By Jocelyn R. Uy

POLICEMEN WILL NOW HAVE TO LITERally work their way up the ladder.

Persons aspiring to climb up the national police organization must first be able to run up a 30-story building in less than three minutes, according to new rules set out by Philippine National Police Director Gen. Oscar Albayalde.

Petrosa announced yesterday that the PNP will be implementing, starting on July, the "10-story ascension test" as an "additional parameter" to appointments and promotions.

He stressed that policemen occupying key positions in the PNP must possess extra physical capabilities to allow them to meet the demands of the job.

"Physical fitness is not about the waistline but the strength of the body," Petrosa said.

Police officers hoping to become regional and district directors and chiefs of the directorate for integrated police operations must be able to ascend a 10-story building in two minutes and 45 seconds. For provincial and city director aspirants, the hurdle is two minutes and 30 seconds.

The test has allowed two minutes and 15 seconds for policemen aiming to become chiefs of police and some members of the police safety management forces.

Petrosa made the announcement at a meeting yesterday with officers of the personnel and human resources development de-partments of the PNP regional offices and national support units.

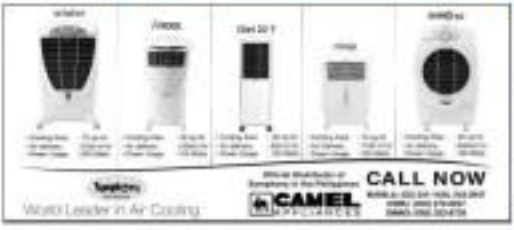
Policies and programs have been introduced by the PNP in the past to keep policemen in tip-top shape. During his three-year stint as PNP chief, Sen. Panfilo Lacson imposed a 24-inch waistline policy for all officers.

Petrosa said the mechanics of the test was approved by the Directorate for Human Resources and Doctrine Development.

The test will be supervised by fitness instructors and medical personnel from the PNP Health Service, he said.

Petrosa also said that all policemen arrested for violating the nationwide gun ban imposed by the Commission on Elections during the election period will undergo re-training and values reorientation.

Records show that 182 police personnel had violated the four-month gun ban that was imposed beginning Jan. 16.



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INQUIRER
OPINION

Unsolicited advice

SHOULD NEWSPAPERS HAND OUT UNSOLICITED advice to the presumptive president-elect? A reader, lawyer Nene Guerra, thinks unsolicited advice, especially the detailed kind, is an insult to, and an imposition on, Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III. "Shades of Cory Aquino's early days! Remember that Cory took umbrage when everyone and his kanto thought they had the right to advise an apparently unprepared president." (Page A16)

EDITORIAL

We thank Guerra for his letter, but we believe he is fundamentally mistaken. He is mistaken about the true import of Cerezon Aquino's early and somewhat haughty disdain for unsolicited advice. His letter provides us an opportunity to make the most of what is now familiarly called a teaching moment. Allow us to explain, accordy what we mean, but what we do.

The opposite of unsolicited advice is the solicited kind, in other words the counsel a public official seeks from those within his circles of trust, and from the professionals. It is the role of a presidential legal counsel, for instance, to provide a president with the best available legal advice (and perhaps some political considerations too). It is the responsibility of department secretaries to provide a president on whose Cabinet they serve with the most comprehensive report on their areas of concern. It is the duty of the legislative liaison officer to provide a president with the most realistic reading of legislative support for a pending bill. And so on and so forth. The point is, solicited advice plays a pivotal role, and may help spell the difference between competence and incompetence in governance.

But unsolicited advice also plays a key role in democratic polities; it should not be entirely tolerated, but welcomed. Any public official quickly becomes the victim of his or her own cordon sanitaire; nobody, for instance, likes bad news, and a public official who has the habit of "killing the messenger" soon runs out of messengers willing to convey bad news. But unsolicited advice does not only traffic in the unpleasant; it also and often presents alternative perspectives, different approaches, perhaps even a variably neutral sense of possibility. Above all, unsolicited advice is only the 10th to 20th term for public opinion, forthrightly expressed. To discourage it, on the grounds that the presumptive president-elect will "invent" it the way he has since number did, or because he will "rightly feel affronted," is to undermine the very discourse that makes concerned letter writers and letters to the editor even possible.

Precisely as a repository of vigorous public discourse, a newspaper like the Inquirer feels duty-bound to offer advice of all sorts. To put it bluntly: the opinion pages of a newspaper are in the unsolicited advice business. "But Noynoy should resent the Inquirer editorial not because it was unsolicited but because it was too detailed," reader Guerra writes. Unfortunately, he is mistaken yet again. Detail is what distinguishes a motherhood statement ("Uphold justice! Confront injustice!") from opinion that can lead to action.

We suspect, however, that reader Guerra is not really interested in a debate about the role of unsolicited advice in public discourse. He skips the passage where we suggest that the first appointment he scrolled out a new short list from the Judicial and Bar Council, with Justice Conchita Carpio-Morales back on it, be prepared, precisely to avoid any embarrassing snag. But the end tells: the ugly lies in his last-reserved-for-last argument: "Worse, the editorial fails to mention that the real effect of its embarrassment of Carpio-Morales is that Senior Associate Justice Antonio T. Carpio can still become chief justice."

To which we can only say: That's not the point of the now regretfully moot ban-saving formula. The point was to let the next president, the person whose appointees we dare render is so solicitous about, make his choice. But Guerra does not want Carpio in Aquino's list of choices. Apparently if the advice comes from him, the next president will not resent it.

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Another scandal at SBMA

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

HERE'S ANOTHER MIDNIGHT CONTRACT that the Senate should investigate.

The Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) wants to issue a joint venture with Regha Kumar's Hutchis Ocean Port Terminal Inc. (HOPT) to operate all the ports and wharves in the Subic Bay Freeport Zone (SBFZ). The problem is that there are already cargo handlers and harbors, with valid 25-year lease contracts with SBMA, that are operating at the piers. Naturally, they do not want to be deprived of their livelihood and are opposing the contract.

To make things worse, the SBMA, specifically its Acting Administrator, has been less than candid with the cargo handlers. He has been assuring them that their lease contracts would be honored when in truth, the opposite: new cargo handling would deprive existing operators of business.

Moreover, SBMA has been very secretive about the negotiations with HOPT. The cargo handlers business have been asking for minutes of the negotiations but SBMA refuses. They also have asked Atienza for a meeting to hear their side and to give them due process, but these requests were ignored.

What it becomes obvious that SBMA would approve the joint-venture agreement with HOPT, the cargo handlers want to court.

Let the dirty linen be washed in public, says Sec. (ATTE), one of the pioneers in the Freeport, the cargo handlers filed a case for violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act and another case for violations of Article 186 of the Revised Penal Code.

Article 186 punishes with imprisonment and fine monopolies and combinations in restraint of trade, thus: "1. Any person who shall enter into any contract or agreement or shall take part in any conspiracy or combination in the form of a trust or otherwise, or in any manner agree with or assume or to prevent by artificial means free competition in the market."

The SBMA-HOPT contract, they said, would create a monopoly in the Freeport and nullify their existing contracts and deprive them of their rights. What's more, they would lose their livelihood—millions of pesos in investments in the piers.

These charged were: Atienza, SBMA chair Roman Agregado, Ruffolard Hernandez, Cristino Manuel Mercadder Ilongot, all members of the Joint Venture Selection Committee; the whole SBMA Board of Directors; and Regha Kumar. It was Michael L. Romero, chair and chief executive officer, respectively, of HOPT.

Atienza, they said, resigned three days after the first contracts with SBMA would still be valid and honored unless in truth they would be deprived of cargo handling services which would be given exclusively to HOPT.

In his statement, Atienza gave them three versions of what will happen after the approval of the contract.

The first version, given on Feb. 1, 2010, was that after contract approval, the present cargo handlers "can no longer continue with our business as cargo handling operators in the whatever area awarded to HOPT."

The second version, contained in a letter by Atienza on Feb. 10, 2010, assured the cargo handlers that "our contract would be respected and honored by SBMA."

The third version, in an interview published in the BusinessWorld issue of March 12-13, said that "while our contract of lease would be respected, we could no longer continue with our business as cargo handling operators."

When the various cargo handlers were due to get hold of an unofficial copy of the HOPT proposal, approved in principle by the SBMA board, they found out that the "version, terms and conditions is now that by virtue of said proposal, HOPT can ask to effectively take over all operations of all the ports in Subic on an exclusive basis, to the undue, unfair and unjustified detriment of our legal rights."

"That would violate our constitutional rights," the cargo handlers said in their complaint.

The deposed SBMA (if wouldn't prohibit) to entering into a joint venture agreement with HOPT. Proof: About six years ago, SBMA granted the cargo handlers' lease rights in 1997. But not honor to increase tariff rates by 20 percent of the Manila rates. The increase, however, was not allowed to be implemented.

But when HOPT asked that a provision authorizing it to increase rates by 20 percent be included in the SBMA-HOPT contract, it was included in the contract without any authorizing resolution from the board. It was only some days after the execution of the contract that the SBMA board passed a resolution approving a 20 percent increase in tariff rates, effectively allowing HOPT to the exclusive operator of all the ports when two years in the SBFZ.

The Joint Venture Guidelines require the inclusion of no dissenter in the JV Selection Committee. Instead of choosing an observer from those who would be affected by the contract, SBMA chose a Japanese executive who never attended a single meeting of the committee.

When asked why he did not attend the meetings, the Japanese replied that every time there was a scheduled meeting, somebody purposely from SBMA would call them to say that the meeting had been cancelled.

The is "a skewed and shameless robbery perpetrated in evident bad faith," the cargo handlers said.

The contract is grossly disadvantageous to the government, the lessees said. HOPT has promised to give SBMA P100,000 a month for five years, but in 2005 alone, ATTE and the other cargo handlers had already given SBMA P4,800,000 (P400,000 x 12 months). Thus, the government would lose at least P24,000,000 in revenues.

They also accused SBMA of not exercising "due diligence" in looking into the background of HOPT which has a bad record in its previous projects, such as the Sindoro Mountain housing project and the Mother Ignacia Avenue.

Bangkok ablaze: It could've been us

Passion for Reason

Rene C. Pamplonayo

BANGKOK IS LITERALLY SET IN FLAMES—and Filipinos must take note. It could've been us. It could still be us.

We have not witnessed such open exercises in violence in urban centers since the martial law days. Neither Edsa I nor Edsa II entailed the burning of live ammunition against civilians, and indeed we celebrate both events precisely for their non-violence. If, at all, the bloodiest was the Edsa I of May 1, 2001 that left the lives of several Erap supporters who protested Erap's arrest at exaggerated calls in Mendiola.

The most recent armed confrontation we've seen in Manila was the November 2006 revolt on the Manila Peninsula when Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, backed by Sen. Antonio Trillanes and one of the contenders, when they were being tried, seize the climate of Makati. That stoke thinking enough for us—the TV video of an armored personnel carrier ramming through the lobby of a five-star hotel and of suspect and troops positioning themselves in the hotel entrance—for that would've been a minor skirmish compared to the "mini-civil war" that Bangkok witnessed the past weeks.

Five Thaksin Shinawatra "red shirt" protesters were killed on May 1, 2010 when the Philippine-like model of round, bamboo poles and fires that they would strategically set on fire. Armed mainly with makeshift bombs and slingshots, they built fortified camps on street roads, in front of hotels, and under their own MRT. In response to disperse opposition, they fired live rounds and hurled hand grenades. But the armed elements remain determined dramatically from the police forces, all hell would have broken loose.

And even today, it could still be so. It is easy to say that the worst is over, e.g., all that talk of billions of investors, the fear and uncertainty of the president, and the prospects of a panic to fill a constitutional vacuum. But in Thailand, the latest fighting wasn't the first nor it seems would it be the last. And, for us, the May 2010 presidential election won't ease all the unresolved issues in our land.

What had changed in Thailand are the several alignments of the "reds," and the ideological position of the "yellows." Before, the reds were typically poor or provincial folk who had been freed from Thaksin's populist programs for health, education and welfare. The term "red-shirts" was applied to members of the United Front for Democracy Against Dictatorship (UDD), and include anti-military academic and activists who oppose the traditional elites and who resist the national subversion of the populist will. Thaksin's electoral triumphs had made him a hero to the poor, but he could be vilified by calling him the "ex" (ruling three, and by discrediting Thaksin's party altogether. The poor and the anti-coup forces have joined forces. They have the same sense of grievance over the past with inspiring vision for the future.

Jurists, the yellow-shirts have carried the banner of anti-corruption and transparency and accused Thaksin of inadequate respect for their institutions. The yellows have been known to favor military coups to "save the country" from their own. The yellow-shirts have been weakened from their ranks. The middle-class reform elites have shown their true colors as traitors with no ideas—kings. They resent democracy and the rule of law but can't seem to accept the results of democratic elections.

Bangkok can teach us many lessons, and the conundrums are amazing. Both Bangkok and Manila have seen populist governments whose supporters viewed elitist civil society with contempt. But Thailand, elected legislature has not worked. This they used to revamp through the courts, which in turn were perverted to political uses. For the Filipino elitist, "democracy" is a farce, we don't necessarily well that this time around, the coalitionary months of winning in court was also capable of winning by votes.

But we cannot build a democracy based on people we good luck. We need to build strong institutions. Even then, there's no guarantee that we are thrown to be saved of our luck.

Comment to jaycee@yahoo.com

The mystery of the masked witness

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

A MASKED MAN MAGQUERADING AS A PUBLIC-SERVICE hijacker? the news headline on Thursday with sweeping allegations of vote-rigging in the May 10 elections. The allegations were made in a videotaped interview shown on a media forum. The man claimed he was part of a group that rigged the election results to benefit, among others, presidential candidates Benigno Aquino III, and vice presidential candidates Aquino Brown and Manuel Roxas II.

The man further alleged that the vote-rigging operations started off several million votes from presidential candidate Gilberto "Bubby" Teodoro, ex-president Joseph Estrada and ex-senator Jinggoy Estrada, Ed de Villanueva. The allegations were so sweeping and utterly devoid of evidence that they generated disbelief. The video-taped statement was unloaded to an unsuspecting public and' explosive next what has been widely accepted as one of the most credible elections since the referendum on the 1987 Constitution.

The method the video interviewer was opening spoke more about the recklessness of Philippine media in dumping into the news stream unverified and wild allegations on the point of serving the public's right to know. The interviewer's motive in whose the witness approached "to tell his story."

The journalist and the witness had a "crisis of conscience," how did the journalist know the witness had such a crisis? The unnamed journalist took the man's word at face value, and then, we have a case of the blind leading the blind, from one media outfit to another. The journalist and the witness had documentary evidence and wanted the government to conduct an investigation—actually a fishing expedition—starting from nihilism. The masked witness painted an intricate election operation featuring hi-tech computer spy devices and computer-hacking. According to news reports, the witness alleged that "the cheating was carried out by computer hollow. By using pre-programmed software, the votes in the precinct count machine were hacked and by interposing and altering transmission from the counting machines. Then the witness formed the conclusion that, "This is an election you can call guarantee." This is worse than "Garci," referring to the fraudulent tapes in the 2004 elections, which supposedly involved President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo calling Comelec Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano to rig the election results in the video interview, the witness claimed Brian paid $1 billion to share votes. Brian, his office made for the vice presidency, but Roxas was not named. He was alleged to have paid another group of "players" to rig the votes for him. We have in the account a vivid, even impressive, color by the fact that the senators' face and identity were hidden from us. We nothing taken in by our from conspiracy theories unwittingly spread by public journalists.

If that's the criteria for Comelec Chair Jose Melo to go back out the board. "This is obviously some thing to derail the elections," he said. "But he has not even identified himself, he does not give specifics." Poling has at the minute Brown Makati City Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr., chair of the House Committee on Public Information. "How can you convince a bank host to a meeting of the House? This man is in a mask and a man with a mask is not entitled to anything. The Comelec and other that man has made general allegations and anybody can make general allegations."

The witness may have convinced into a farce the media forum in which he testified, and his testimony might be hasten's bellows. The question arises: Who is behind this farce to discredit the election results? The Parish National Council for Responsible Voting, which has assiduously monitored the election results, was quick to point out that the "unsubstantiated claims were credible," saying that it found "only minor discrepancies."

PPCRV chair Henrietta de Villa said, "There is no consistent attempt at fraud. If there were one to happen at all. They were able to get through with the system and the count is consistent with the manual count." The PPCRV said that it can do one-to-one comparison of electronically transmitted election results with manually audited printouts of results from 40,000 precincts nationwide showed discrepancies only in 29 precincts. The discrepancies were found in less than a fraction of a percent of the total number of precincts the PPCRV analyzed, which represented some 17,000 cities across the country. "We're not refuting any politics at all," said the PPCRV. "They're in very different areas. And the incidents are totally very small."

The PPCRV reported that only 0.04 that 10 days after the election, and with more than 95 percent of the votes in already counted, the clubbanger results of the vice presidential contest between Roxas and Binay have not been determined" Added to these are the increasing reports of fraud and delayed results in the automated election system. These debate content talk. Be quick results in the first few hours after the close of the polling centers, buying that period, 51 percent of the votes had been counted, indicating that Aquino had already won an overwhelming margin, constituting the landslide of the results. It is not hard to imagine the chaos and uncertainty if these had been debate in the count in the first few days after the elections. Such episodes as the dramatic false testimony of the masked witness would have ignited public unrest over the conduct of the elections.

Entitlement

WE USUALLY THINK OF CORRUPTION AS BRIBES AND kickbacks, mainly involving people in government entering public funds.

We're not so naive, or vigilant, about the role played by something called entitlement in corruption, in both the public and private sectors.

To illustrate, let me give a recent example from Thailand.

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

Shilay Bhadhanasobhon took a Thai Airways flight from Taiwan to Bangkok with her sister and a friend. The three of them posted their baggage allowance when they checked in. Since Shilay and two other were on first class, their total baggage allowance was a whopping 270 kg. But that apparently was still not enough. The three checked in 30 pieces of baggage, with a total weight of 388 kg.

Excess baggage charges would have amounted to 85,000 baht. Shilay didn't pay the sum, after all, three of the board of Thai Airways, which is a government corporation. Apparently, after the party had checked in, someone in Thai Airways allowed the baggage weight. Not only that, the baggage ended up in the first class cabin, where the trio had their reserved seats. Shilay later claimed he was carrying fruits, given to him by a friend living in Japan and intended for a Buddhist temple.

The media pounced on the event saying that Shilay had exploited his position as an executive of a government corporation. The airline eventually had to launch an investigation. Reed before results of the probe could be released, Shilay resigned. She eventually apparently reimbursed the excess fee, but stated that since Shilay had already resigned, it was now all academic and moot.

This incident is an example of entitlement gone awry. Entitlement started out with very positive meanings. In the United States, for example, it's still used to refer to social security payments for unemployment, maternity, sickness. The rationale of these payments is that a person is entitled to government subsidies because they are in redistributive operations.

Somehow, over the years, entitlement has taken on more negative meanings. I first heard the word from American professors, complaining about how demanding their students had become, for example, thinking they're automatically entitled to a grade of "A" just for attending classes.

Entitlement and corruption

If we are to tackle corruption in the Philippines, we need to look at people's sense of entitlement, from the ostentatious people see, to the way the entitlement "evolves" together with the scale of corruption. I can imagine the Thai executive rumbling himself to the excess baggage with all kinds of rationalizations: his being board chair (airline officials do get some reasonable baggage allowances) and maybe the fruits were going to be brought to the Thai royal family (which is a common enough practice). But the Thai Buddhist friends have a counter-argument: the donations of fruits would have been more meaningful if he had paid for them transport.)

Petty corruption often starts out with rationalizations like, "It's only a few pesos, but it will help me feed my family." Then it becomes "Everyone's doing it anyway and I'd be a fool not to take my share." Eventually, it all becomes second nature: the people (but the corrupted will chew it all up) that we are no pawns for?" Entitlement has now spawned arrogance.

Entitlement becomes even more important to the light of Deputy Speaker's main campaign slogan, "Kung walang corruption, walang gutom" (If there is no corruption, there will be no poverty). Entitlement appropriates poverty because it needs poor people with an exhibition sense of entitlement on one hand, and victims, the poor, who have a weak sense of entitlement.

Feudal entitlement

In a feudal society like our own, entitlement is constantly being mangled. When the rich help the poor, it's often with a sense of entitlement as total control over people they've helped. The reciprocal "Tapatan"), they'll loyalty at household helpers who didn't realize it.

On the other hand, the poor sense feudal system means that the poor's sense of entitlement is tied to patronage, to the politician and patronage, which means corruption will be tolerated for as long as the loot is shared out. The crucial feeling distributed to the poor.

The feudal entitlements can backfire. For example people are paying back a loan, or finding ways to cheat the rich, with the rationalization that the rich are rich anyway and therefore should be able to afford losses. "Hindi 'yan nakawan—I've had people not paying back money because even if they don't want to repay it because they think I want for running low of money from the business and DP thinks.)

The rich complain all the time about the poor making too many demands. We doubt there are many with a distorted sense of entitlement, often corrupted by politicians' dole-outs. But there are many more who need to build a stronger sense of entitlement, in the positive sense.

The Aquino government has many things it needs to people living within decent normal political rules. There are unforeseen consequences as well in the private sector. Last month's business-World had a report on an Asian airline charging Filipinos an least likely to report problems they had with food and service, shoddy goods or overpriced items. But how it works? The companies believe they're entitled to maximum profits, even if workers are suffering consumer welfare. The consumers don't think they're entitled to anything. Only, they're not sure why they do know they're entitled, but don't think their grievances will be addressed anyway.)

How your issues with these distorted entitlements, not just financially but in the quality of goods and services. So we, the are will up with a call of conformity, getting by with whatever we think we can get away with.

Twitter feeds

The best way to appreciate the new look is the feast it gets, the more choices are the Flores de Mayo, especially the blooming trees. Take time to appreciate the resplendent red Ilex trees, or the soothing cascading yellow showers. Come and visit UP Diliman this month, with many of these trees in full bloom. But if you look hard you'll find these trees popping up in the most unexpected places all around Metro Manila, providing relief from the city's drab landscape.

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Email: mtan@inquirer.com.ph

'Speaking' women's stories

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"SPEAK OUT AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE" is direct-writing and Israel's company Accion Corporate social responsibility programs to "raise awareness on the reality of domestic abuse and raise funds for NGOs" in the field.

"Speaking out" is also the last step that a woman on many to take to end violence in either home and in her family. Before she can seek this help of other people and escape her situation, a woman needs first of all to recognize the problem and give voice to it. "Speaking out" is the first step that many women don't stray of reaching out to others. It is also the first essential step to getting in touch with herself and to—as one survivor put it—"decide that I have the power to make myself happy."

And that is the purpose, the launch of "Speak Out!" several days was marked by the the screen of funds to these most MDOs, apart from the promising 2010 Women's Crisis Centre to help them in their work. Last year, from helped the NGOs with the services of my hotline receiving women in abusive situations and relationships a lifeline to speak out about their problems, and counseling and other much-needed help. This year, from committed to support three more NGOs: Women Health Care Philippines Inc., Women in Emergency Hill Foundation Inc./Sumpungan ng mga Kababaihan.

The event was hosted by TV host and actress Bea Lorenzo, after honored over everyone else in her group's work that fellow women suffer. After the retelling of three women survivors' stories by actor Raul Morpheus, Bea's once again stood up. "It's been three years," Bea's acknowledged, after this to her own tumultuous and violent marriage, "But the hardest part is really starting over."

And so "one key reason why we are so in," Bea's also turned over to PGH part of the proceeds (P200,000) of the fund-a-million peso disaster relief when she joined "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?"

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FREE of "Speak Out!" is also giving voice to women survivors of abuse, the great majority of them non-celebrities who never had the chance to tell their stories of pain and loss, defeat and triumph, despair and transcendence.

The stories are "Sony," interpreted by Gina Alajar, spoke of one woman's experience with two sides, both of whom showed her love and her trust. Even after she successfully ended her annulment from her second husband, Ruby found another person in that she could open up and pair her relationship with her children from her first marriage, in whom she had vested her anger and trust. Now a volunteer health worker working with other abused women, Sony has realized that it is possible to break out of the grip of abuse, that there are people out there willing to help, but that this is possible only if one decides to change the status quo.

"Maria" is the name of a woman whose story has been written about previously in this space. In her account read by Stella Cuesta, "Maria" recounts that the physical, emotional and verbal abuse inflicted on her by her live-in partner ceases in that day a gasoline was set after an altercation with his own father. I would also like to mention that after her case became public knowledge, "Maria" received help from many quarters, including lawyers who took up her cause. Pro Cayetano who, even before this made it possible for "Maria's" lawyer Brig. Umenez, to travel back-and-forth between Manila and Bicolcol.

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If you "take" guest Irma Adlawan who read the story of "Jigs," whose relationship with her college boyfriend turned husband followed the arc of the typical "cycle of domestic violence," which sees her husband's violence in recurring episodes, each in unclear. He "makes-lifted" build-up to escalating violence. But after making up her mind to "make myself happy," Jaja returned to school, got her degree, and even managed to find love again. Now, she has been in a new boyfriend, an Australian businessman.

You can help here help many more women by having special films "empowerment" Tickets for the event are P1,000 each, and can be had from a hotline, with part of the sale proceeds going to help the four NGOs encourage women to "speak up" and seek out-side the help.

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IN THE column on "The man who would be Speaker" (Inquirer, 5/19/10), I wrote that the speaker of the House of Representatives is "fourth in the line of succession" to the President. Actually, if presumptive President Noynoy Aquino should be incapacitated or otherwise be unable to discharge his duties after his inauguration, he will be succeeded by the new vice president, and if the VP is incapacitated, by the Senate president, followed by the Speaker. Former Speaker Jose Venecio listed in the line of succession.

In another column on the party-list groups with ties to the Armed Communist Party, I described Bayan Muna's Satur Ocampo, who was then president of the VP is incapacitated, by the Senate president, followed by the Speaker. Former Speaker Jose Venecio listed in the line of succession.

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The INQUIRER is a member of the PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE

Emerging abuse of power

COMMENTARY

Pobjoy Lawsuvvi

LONDON—THE DETERIORATING THAI POLITical situation has made the "land of smiles" the object of constant curiosity among friends and colleagues here. Thailand also has happened round on him and it is now the international press' favorite country to talk about. It is right up there with the likes of the New York fourth pair and the fiscal cliff in Greece. One has only to pick up a copy of The Economist to realize that they now run articles on the crisis in Thailand on a weekly basis.

The Thai government, dominated by the Democrat Party, has been trying to fight the information fray and to clogging it out. Their embassy staff, from Sydney to Kuala Lumpur, are writing letters to newspapers to insist that the situation in Thailand is peaceful and still. But the public, especially those who have been closely following Thailand politics, know that the calm is far from over. They can tell that no are still very much in the dark.

Sadly, there are some news and political observers who resist the urge to speculate upon. They overlook the crass representation and the way it has transformed the country. There are many reasons why the Thai crisis is not likely to end in the near future, but I will only touch on two here. The first is about the level of the government to all this. As we read, observe and report, the culture of fear and violence grows. There is an increase in the worrying use of excessive power and authority by the government.

The latest example is the declaration by the state of emergency in Bangkok and 23 other provinces from today (5/21) at the last from on March 14. Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva has justified it on the basis of actions that are unacceptable by international standards. This includes the bloody crackdown on April 10 in which 25 people were killed in 26 dead and more than 800 injured, or the bloody crackdown on April 14, which led to the death of 6 protesters, with at least 353 people injured.

The government attempted to justify the crackdown by branding protesters as "terrorists." This act has been returned by the UN Department of State in a press statement, it said that the demonstrations "[appeared] to be motivated by domestic political aims and not a response to be acts of [...] terrorism." Moreover, the grave concern of the international community over the incidents it witnessed further to visits of the diplomatic corps to the protest sites.

International rights groups such as Human Rights Watch (HRW) and Amnesty International have raised concerns about the excessive use of force in the written conditions, by being contradictory to the UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials, which require the use of non-violent means before resorting to the use of force.

The emergency decree has also been used to draw lawyers' attention and radio stations open to inform to the government, for the sake of "national unity." In the first half of May, through the order of the Center for Emergency Situation Operations, the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology has shut down at least 1,031 political websites.

HRW has also raised its concerns about the use of the emergency decree to restrict to common freedoms of politicians, former government officials, academics, student activists and community radio operators, as well as the media. It has stated that:

This month, Suhaik Laemsa-Ard, a committee member of the Student Federation of Thailand (SFT), and two other student activist friends were sent by bail' a dozen police officers at her home, summoning her to present herself before the 11th Infantry Regiment under the order of CESS.

The ad hoc is certainly worrisome, as news from modern activism have directly threatened in the capital like this, whether outside Thailand. The president's government in General Surayud's regime. The situation in the provinces of South-ern Thailand is different.

He should take note that Abhisit, back in August 2005, said before he became prime minister, he only looked out against the dissent, saying that "I'd rather ignore it." He should not have said that, if opened up opportunities for the PM to abuse power, since it was majority system and gave the executive level of power delegated to the PM.

Ironically, he called but reasons "were the last of the country's first priority" since the decree gave the PM "sweeping powers" to restore peace" doesn't a threat to national security. Here, we are seeing debate doing the opposite, undercutting the sense of this decree.

A staunch critic of Thaksin's government, he, not him. Are Bangkokites, compared the killing of the Red Shirts to the "Nazi" and "Hitler" Abhisit's administration with the April 10 crackdown. In both incidents, he said, "There was absolutely no effort to take responsibility either personally or collectively as a government, for the consequences." He also said, "every time Abhisit looks in the mirror, he sees the face of Adolf Hitler."

While he was still in the opposition, Abhisit had always criticized Thaksin for his hard-liners policies, including the abuse of power through the use of draconian laws and policies. Abhisit has no job himself if power has turned him into someone he loathed the most.

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Pobjoy Lawsuvvi is a World Bank adviser at the Department of Political Science, University College London. The views are his own.

Unconstitutional editorial

LETTERS

THE INQUIRER'S MAY 14 EDITORIAL OF... [illegible] ...unsolicited advice to President-to-Worship Noynoy Aquino. Slander of Gary Aquino's early days? Remember that Gary took umbrage when everyone said his business thought don't lead the right to advise on apparently unprecedented presidents.

But Noynoy should ignore the Inquirer editorial not because it was unsolicited but because it was too detailed. The Inquirer wasn't satisfied that Noynoy tallied up Presidents Macapagal-Arroyo to reconsider her decision to proceed with Connect coronavirus. The unsolicited had the effrontery to suggest: "We think he should follow this up by passing the appeal in writing."

Now, the newspaper even handpicks who should be appointed chief justice, namely, Justice Conchita Carpio-Morales. The Inquirer had run the dissident to [illegible] ...only one more year left before retirement, and for that, the editorial [illegible] ...year in "five dares" the like on court nations, and then Noynoy can appoint a chief justice of his.

When the editorial doesn't succeed is that Carpio Morales isn't even in the list of nominees by the Judicial and Bar Council. What the editorial doesn't mention is that its only top [illegible] ...Court as of this date. A motion for reconsideration was reasonably filed by Ucap on March 10, 2010, a copy of which has been furnished the Comelec. That is unreasonable and doomed to note that the case has already been decided with finality by the Supreme Court.

We have already notified the Comelec about this issue.

—FRANCISCA PRINCIPE,
Principe & Associates Law Offices,
23 Wrightsburg St., Makati, Manila.

No final Supreme Court decision on Ucap

WE WRITE ON BEHALF OF OUR CLIENT, United Coalition and Green Empires Association, Inc. of the Philippines (Ucap), to correct the erroneous statement in the Comelec Synopsis Status published in the Inquirer on April 23, 2010.

To the synopsis below, there was a notice that Ucap's "Accreditation has been denied with finality (ACC)." On the contrary, the resolution in... issued by Comelec, docketed as EDOC 10111, is still pending determination by the Supreme

—ATTY. ROMEO G. CAPULONG,
Ucap National Chairman

High court ruling on media case vs FG hailed

THE NATIONAL UNION OF JOURNALISTS OF the Philippines (NUJP) welcomes the Supreme Court decision that ordered PIDC Undersecretary Mike Arroyo's bid to stop the hearing of the P111.5-million libel suit filed by journalists for his unconstitutional attempts to curtail press freedom.

Arroyo cried foul [illegible] ...to get a Court of Appeals order for the Makati regional trial court to continue hearing the libel suit, which was filed after Arroyo filed multiple libel charges against more than 40 journalists, in what the media community rightly saw as a blatant abuse of the power and privileges for being presidential spouse/government [illegible]

We are confident that the courts will hear and decide the case on its merits.

For so long, the powerful and influential have used criminal libel cases, relying on a retrograde law that dates back to the American colonial period and that was meant to muzzle dissent, more than anything else, to harass or silence the independent Philippine press.

We once again call on Congress to go beyond lip service and empty platitudes. Thats that pending bill that actually worsens the existing libel law and put the long-overdue legislation decriminalizing libel.

—ALYSON BUNGOS III,
Chair, National Union of Journalists of the Philippines,
4/L UEE Bldg., 80 Scout Castor corner Scout Tuazon Sts., Jesse U. Morato Ave., Barangay Laging Handa, Quezon City

Holy Land theme park to rise in Subic

SO YOU WANT TO VISIT THE PROMISED land, to watch Dead Sill Ordeth with a chip dent in the head? You don't have to go to Israel and visit the Subic Bay Freeport.

The Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) has approved the creation of the Holy Land Subic Theme Park which will bring to life the most recognizable places and events in the Bible.

Even the traditional Stations of the Cross during the Holy Week will be made more enjoyable when Subic's new Holy Land theme park goes full blast.

Aside from helping Filipinos learn and appreciate the events of their birth, the Holy Land Theme Park will also provide another destination that gives both spiritual renewal and recreation.

SBMA administrator Armand Arreza said the proposed Holy Land Theme Park will have lights and sounds shows to promote people to cluster in the Bible, restaurants, souvenir shops, a Bible museum, a hotel and resorts as well as arcades.

Arreza, in a press statement, said the project also caters to people who do not find the attraction or alternative to popular tourist venues like Tagaytay, which have become crowded.

The theme park will be built on a 20-hectare land area in Subic which will be developed for commercial use with a P350-million investment for the next six years.

Arreza said the project, apart its recreation, will promote tourism in Subic and provide opportunities for investors to industries in Subic and nearby areas.

Meralco service at work.

Kilalen regular maintenance and constant upgrading of our power distribution facilities to assure the delivery of reliable electricity. In this regard, some power interruptions in the following areas are unavoidable.

Please be assured that we are working as efficiently and as quickly to minute causing the least inconveniences.

SUNDAY TO MONDAY, MAY 23 – 24, 2010

LAGUNA (STA. ROSA)

BETWEEN 1:00PM (SUN. 23/2010) AND 5:00AM (MON. 24/2010) – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT SALIBAO 34KV: ISRAN 612EN

Old Compound Brgy. Macabling

REASON: Wood maintenance and trunk Wood Mast substation.

EASTER (MANDAUE)

BETWEEN 11:00PM (SUN. 23/2010) TO 5:00AM (MON. 24/2010) AND THEN BETWEEN 4:00AM AND 5:00AM (MON. 24/2010) – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS DASMARIÑAS 69kV AND 13kV.

Portion of Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo Highway from Mendez Elementary Association to new Tanbac – Nahawanglang.

Along Sen. M. Barangay line, from Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo Highway to Congressional Road including Hatchernan, Sin La Salle Compound, Medical Center, Pulong Langkaan Compound and the Middle of Brgy. Road.

Portion of Congressional Road (With Highway) from Mendez Elementary to one including Saint Damian Road., Lily Homes – Dasma Road., Bahay Kalinga (Alexander), Villa Solidad., Mendez Hall., Dasmariñas Progress Compound Road to the Gate., Dasmariñas Progress Compound Road., Dasmariñas Progress Compound Road to the Gate., and the La Salle Greenhills – Dasmariñas 4 Brgy. Ibayo San Antonio De Padua 2 Dist. Manu and San Simon.

Portion of Gen. E. Aguinaldo Highway from Victoria Dasmariñas Association to Governor Drive Road Point – Carmona Highway) in Dasmariñas.

Portion of Governor Drive (Pala-Pala – Carmona Highway) from near Pala-Pala Highway Road Center to and including La Mesa Watershed Reservation Compound, Dasmariñas Progress, Kingstown Village, Mercedes Village and Villa de Subic 4 Brgy. Langkaan 1, Dasmariñas 7 and Salawag 11 in Dasmariñas.

Portion of Governor Drive (Pala-Pala – Carmona Highway) from San Sebastian Highlands Subdivision to Magnolia Road Brittany Bay Subd. including Old Emerald Property, MERALCO, Phillips, Mendez Memorial Park, Carmel Heights, Regala Subd., Greenwoods Village 1 to 2 & Regala Heights, Carmel Heights Subd., Sherman's Village, Chinese 1, 2, 3 & 10, Thomas, Greenwoods Hills Subd., Mendez Hall, Dasmariñas Progress, United Insurance Commissions in Brgy. Paliparan 13, and Sampaloc 01 and Sampaloc 02 Dasmariñas, Cavite, Brgy. Salitran 2 Dist. Dasmariñas, Cavite, Brgy. Salawag 11 Dist. Dasmariñas, Cavite, Brgy. Paliparan 3 Dist. Dasmariñas, Cavite, Brgy. Langkaan 1, Dasmariñas 7 and Salawag 11 in Dasmariñas.

Along Magnolia Road from Governor Drive to and including Concepcion Industrial Road., Carolina Road., Santo Cristobal & Commercial Center Point in Brgy. Magdalo., Ibayo Dasmariñas Compound., Mercedes Industrial Road (Phase 1) Mendez Hall and Carmona Memorial Church in Carmona.

REASON: Repair and trunk ROOT Dasmariñas substation.

TUESDAY, MAY 25, 2010

BATANGAS (STO. TOMAS)

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 5:00PM AND THEN BETWEEN 1:00PM AND 5:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT STP-01MW

Portion of Batangas Bypass Highway From Brgy. San Rafael Proper to Sto. Tomas Road. In Brgy. San Rafael Proper including Puerto Real, San Rafael Estate, San Antonio Heights, San Rafael Estate, San Antonio Village and Zone Estate, Sto. Tomas, Batangas, Proposed and Our Antenna.

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 5:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT STP-01MW

Portion of Batangas Bypass Highway From Brgy. Cuta Village to Infront of Brgy. San Rafael Church including Sunrise Villa in Sgu, San Rafael.

REASON: Reconstruction of Meralco facilities affected by STRP- road widening project in Brgy. San Rafael, Sto. Tomas, Batangas Inc.

RIZAL PROVINCE (ANTIPOLO EAST AND CAINTA)

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 4:00PM AND THEN BETWEEN 1:00PM AND 5:00PM – PORTIONS OF CIRCUIT SOLARES 4.16KV

Portion of L. Wood St. from Meralco Solares substation near Pinto's and including National Road in Brgy. Dolores, Taytay.

Portion of Brgy. Sta. Ana – Taytay – Antipolo Provincial Road from Brgy. Dolores, Taytay.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 2010

MAKATI CITY

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 5:00PM AND THEN BETWEEN 1:00PM AND 5:00PM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS ILANG-ILANG 13KV AND

Portion of Nak na Star from Meralco ex-pole substation to Magallanes St. including Star Road Point Proprietors and Milton Point Manufacturing Corp. in Brgy. Bangkal.

Portion of Bangkal Brgy. St. 2 Avocado Ave. and D. Tuazon Ave. from Del Monte Ave. to Brgy. Cana St. and including Mercury Drug Corp. and Thanksgiving Village, Phil Bank C. M. Recidoro Public Park, Pres. Quirino Mosque, San Manuel Agregado, Cuartelera, Manaoag, Kainas and Cuartelera Sts. in Brgy. St. Rose, Makati and Cuartelera.

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 5:00PM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS LA LUMA 34KV AND 13KV

Portion of Del Monte Ave. and E. Rodriguez Ave. from Meralco La Luma substation along Rainbow St. to and including Mariveles Vega Island Labo, Rosario Pasay, Cebu Sts. Mahogany Loops, Bonsai, Narra and Yakal Sts. Gumamela and Del. Calamba Sts. in Brgy. Paang Bundok and Sto. E. Hernando.

Portion of Mayon, Mariveles, Apo Area, Gumamela Kanal and Cuartelera Sts. from Del Monte Ave. to Sto. E. Hernando Ave. Pateo including Sgt. Antonio Matias and Sta. Cuartelera Sts. in Brgy. Manresa.

REASON: Preventive maintenance and loading work inside Meralco La Luma substation.

THURSDAY, MAY 27, 2010

BULACAN

BETWEEN 9:00AM (THU. 27/2010) AND 4:00PM (FRI. 28/2010) – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT SAN JOSE 34.5KV: ISRAN 612EN

Along Municipal St. and Villages Road from San Jose Meralco substation to and including Bunga Mercado Road to Bulacan Brgy. Hospital and Dandelion to Angat.

Portion of Quezon St. Poblacion Sta. San Fernando Road from San Jose Meralco substation to and including Brgy. Sto. Cristo San Roque Road, Mercado, Bulacan, Tungkong Mangga, Cofradia Sto. Cristo, Bulacan, Bulacan Brgy. Hospital, Bulacan Public School, Bulacan Medical Center, Bulacan Municipal Building and Bulacan Municipal Police Station.

BETWEEN 1:00PM AND 5:00PM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS ANGAT 12KV

Portion of Emerald Road from Sta. Monica Mfg. Inc. and including Brgy. Engineer Angat, Public Elementary Bagong Barrio, Brgy. Bulacan, Tungkong Mangga Bunga Mercado Road to Bulacan Brgy. Hospital, Bulacan Public School, Bulacan Medical Center, Bulacan Municipal Building and Bulacan Municipal Police Station.

THURSDAY TO FRIDAY, MAY 27 – 28, 2010

LAGUNA (STA. ROSA)

BETWEEN 10:00PM (THU. 27/2010) AND 5:00AM (FRI. 28/2010) – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT SALIBAO 34KV: ISRAN 612EN

Old Compound Brgy. Macabling

REASON: Wood maintenance and trunk Wood Mast substation.

LAGUNA (CABUYAO AND STA. ROSA)

BETWEEN 10:00PM AND 4:00PM (THU. 27/2010) AND THEN BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 4:00PM (FRI. 28/2010) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT SALIBAO 34KV

Portion of Sta. Rosa – Cabuyao National Highway from Villa Casanova to and including Villa Anthurium Subd., Golden City Subd., Mahinda Homes, Silver Mesa Village, South Anna Village San Francisco Subd. in Brgy. Sta. Ana and Sta. Rosa Town Proper in Sta. Rosa.

BETWEEN 10:00AM (THU. 27/2010) AND 5:00AM (FRI. 28/2010) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT SALIBAO 34KV

Portion of Sta. Rosa – Cabuyao National Highway from Villa Casanova to and including Villa Anthurium Subd., Golden City Subd., Mahinda Homes, Silver Mesa Village, South Anna Village San Francisco Subd. in Brgy. Sta. Ana and Sta. Rosa Town Proper in Sta. Rosa.

BETWEEN 10:00AM AND 5:00PM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT SAN JOSE 34.5KV: ISRAN 612EN

Along Municipal St. and Villages Road from San Jose Meralco substation to and including Bunga Mercado Road to Bulacan Brgy. Hospital and Dandelion to Angat.

REASON: Reconstruction of primary lines to various areas in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

BULACAN

BETWEEN 11:00PM AND 5:00PM (FRI. 28/2010) AND THEN BETWEEN 1:00PM AND 5:00PM (FRI. 28/2010) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT CRUZ NA ULAN 34KV

Portion of Lagayan Valley Road from Meralco Cruz na Ulan substation to Cruz Village in Brgy. Mahabangkay, San Mateo including Brgy. Catasan, Catasan, Malanday, Malupa-Ipanay, Pasong Tamo, Ipanay Pulo, Ipanay Proper and Tumana, San Mateo to Brgy. Mahabangkay, Mendez (Cruz na Ulan) in San Mateo.

BETWEEN 12:00AM AND 5:00AM (FRI. 28/2010) – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT CRUZ NA ULAN 34KV

San Mateo to Brgy. Cruz na Ulan, San Mateo

REASON: Preventive maintenance and loading work inside Meralco Cruz na Ulan substation.

FRIDAY TO SATURDAY, MAY 28 – 29, 2010

MONTALBAN (RIZ)

BETWEEN 11:00PM AND 11:59PM (FRI. 28/2010) AND THEN BETWEEN 12:00AM AND 5:00AM (SAT. 29/2010) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT CANLUBANG 34KV

Portion of Prov. R-1, Antonio Ave. and Pantranco North Expressway (Southern Expansion to new Prime Corridor including Fairview St. and Bank Rd. Dist.) in Brgy. Cupang.

BETWEEN 11:00PM (FRI. 28/2010) AND 4:00AM (SAT. 29/2010) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT SAMPAGUITA 34KV

Portion of Gen. Luis Road, Commonwealth Ave. (West Service Road from Meralco Batasan substation to and including Quirino Ave. (Novaliches Proper Northbound) to Brgy. Payatas, Quezon City including Bgy. Payatas A, Bgy. Payatas B, Bgy. Batasan Hills, Bgy. Commonwealth, Bgy. Holy Spirit, Bgy. Pasong Putik, Bgy. Fairview, Bgy. Novaliches Proper, Bgy. Greater Lagro, Bgy. Kaligayahan, Bgy. Nagkaisang Nayon, Bgy. Sta. Lucia, Bgy. Sauyo, Bgy. Gulod Novaliches, Bgy. Sta. Monica, Bgy. Talipapa, Bgy. Bagong Silangan

Across the NATION

₱500M in funds for evacuees missing

COTABATO CITY—At least ₱500 million in funds meant for thousands of residents who fled fighting in 2008 between government and separatist rebels in Maguindanao are missing and could not be accounted for.

Officials of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) are now demanding an accounting of how the funds were spent. It was President Macapagal-Arroyo who ordered the release of the funds for evacuees in Maguindanao.

Sagadi Ilanun-Ibrahim, ARMM executive secretary, said the funds were supposed to have been released in 2009 and were to come from collections from the expanded value-added tax (e-vat).

No more funds

Mindanao and Peoples ARMM official, Parliamentarian Kadir, said that in April and this month, two officials of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)—Raul Lumontad and Elma Cabrera—announced that the funds that were released through the DSWD-ARMM, which was leading the delivery of food and other aid packages to evacuees, has not received anything.

"Not a single penny reached the office out of that e-vat collections," said Kadir.

No paper trail

Thousands of villagers were driven out of their homes in 2008 because of fighting between government soldiers and members of the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Sarah Tabu, regional director of the DSWD, has yet to comment on reports of the disappearance of the funds.

Sinsuebio said some ARMM officials were wondering where and how the funds were spent since they didn't see any documents on the allocation and disbursement of the P50 billion.

Sinsuebio said Kadir, who led in the forum on Wednesday of some 360 families in Pagatin village in Datu Salibo town, said the more than ₱500,000 that they spent for food and other aid packages in the past days came from the Office of the Regional Governor and from the DSWD-ARMM.

Relying on donors

The UN Act for Peace also committed to provide food and funds for the construction and repair of at least 100 houses that were razed during the fighting.

Dolalas, another international humanitarian agency vowed to provide potable water supply in returning villages by putting up a water system, Ilanun-Ibrahim said.

Sinsuebio said in the wake of the widening fund scam, other officials did vow to tap humanitarian agencies for the resettlement of the displaced residents.

Formal talks between the government and MILF were suspended. Charlie U. Jobias, Inquirer Mindanao

ADDED DUTY
Aside from doing battle with communist guerrillas and separatist rebels in Mindanao, soldiers, like these men in uniform in Luzona City, are also tapped to perform duties normally done by civilian workers, like clean up trash left by candidates during the election campaign.

SBMA widens freeport area to Zambales, Bataan towns

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—The Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) is preparing an expansion program that would reach Olongapo City and towns in Zambales as mandated by new rules on extending the leasehold of Subic Bay Freeport.

Armand Arreza, SBMA administrator, said it is imminent that the expansion of the second zone within the Subic Special Economic and Freeport Zone (SBFEPZ) is "necessary in order to address the shortage of space for lease to investors."

"This is necessary to push development into communities outside Subic's secured area and also to guarantee the realization of the Subic-Clark economic corridor as a world-class logistics and services hub," Arreza said.

LGU consent

Areas near the Subic freeport may be declared by the SBMA for inclusion as additional secured area after consultation with local officials and approval of a resolution by the concerned city or town council, according to the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) drafted by various agencies.

The IRR was a product of consultations between the SBMA, Bureau of Customs (BOC) and local governments within the SBFEPZ, SBMA officials said.

Local governments that participated in the consultations may be declared as additional secured areas under Executive Order No. 675. These include the towns of Subic and San Antonio in Zambales; Morong, Hermosa and Limay in Bataan; and Olongapo City.

EO 675 prescribes that areas within the territories of these towns and city may be developed through local government or private sector initiatives and become part of the SBFEPZ.

Tax perks

These potential zone areas may then avail themselves of appropriate tax, duty-free and fiscal investment incentives and privileges, upon application and after approval by the SBMA.

The IRR said any business individual or organization may apply with the SBMA for inclusion in the SBFEPZ provided they submit the required documents, resources and registration certificates.

Government and private lands that may come in for additional secured areas may only be leased to SBMA-registered enterprises, subject to the approval of the SBMA board.

SBMA control

Once declared as additional secured areas by the SBMA, the areas will be classified either as industrial, tourism, recreational, investment or financial center, or a mix of these developments.

These areas would be organized, administered, managed and operated by the SBMA through an area manager, who would be appointed by the SBMA administrator.

Arreza said the SBMA will construct roads, schools and bridges to spread development outside the freeport. Robert Gonzaga, Inquirer Central Luzon

Actor's win in Bulacan means flood of diapers

GUIGUINTO, BULACAN—How that Bulacan has elected actor Daniel Fernando as vice governor, voters here should expect a flash flood of adult diapers by July.

Fernando, a former provincial board member, announced plans to distribute free adult diapers to senior citizens and bedridden patients to fulfill a campaign promise he made when he first turned politician in 2004.

But three days before the elections, the Comelec on June allowed Fernando to proceed with his candidacy.

Fernando said he has directed his staff to get the names of Bulacan's sick and aged so he could hand out free diapers throughout the province.

He said he is considering a similar project that he began in 2004.

"In those days, adult diapers cost from P25 to P35 and people were forced to use them three times a day to cut down on costs. The money would have been better spent on food so I thought giving me free diapers would be the best way to help people," he said.

He said he used his monthly salary as board member to cut-rate diaper supplies for the aged and sick of the second district towns of Guiguinto, Bocaue, Pandi, Bulakan, Plaridel, Baliuag and Bulacan. Carmela Reyes-Obrero, Inquirer Central Luzon

School opening: Volunteers are key again

By Joey Gabieza
Inquirer Visayas

DUMAGUIN CITY—THE 3RD Department of Education (DepEd) in Eastern Visayas would rely on a volunteer program called "Brigada Eskwela" once again to prepare public schools in the region for the incoming school year.

Marlonito Campani, coordinator of the DepEd "Brigada Eskwela" in the National Schools Maintenance Week that would start on Monday, said students, parents and other stakeholders would help clean and refurbish public schools.

Campani said the conduct of Brigada Eskwela would be guided by a list of objectives lumped as 3Rs—repaint, recycle, refurbish, rehabilitate, renew, remodel, redistribute, reuse, rebuild and renew school facilities.

He said the week-long activity would enable the prompt start of classes scheduled on June 14," Campani said.

He also said Brigada Eskwela had helped the government save millions of pesos in past school years.

Campani said parents and other stakeholders make donations during the one-week activity. Donations include construction materials, foods and even free labor.

Over 700,000 persons participated in the region's Brigada Eskwela last year, which generated a savings of more than ₱200.9 million for the DepEd.

Based on DepEd records, over ₱266 million worth of donations and services were saved in the elementary level and more than ₱86 million in the secondary level.

In elementary level, the Leyte school division generated the highest savings at ₱158.88 million, followed by Southern Leyte (₱6.7 million), Eastern Samar (₱58.58 million), Samar (₱13.308 million), Northern Samar (₱14 million), Ormoc (₱3.88 million), Maasin City (₱9.7 million), Biliran (₱3.14 million), Calbayog (₱2.93 million) and Tacloban (₱1.27 million).

In high school, Southern Leyte generated the highest savings at ₱30.76 million, followed by Leyte (₱24.7 million), Samar (₱16.93 million), Eastern Samar (₱14.57 million), Ormoc (₱9.37 million), Northern Samar (₱1.36 million), Calbayog (₱1.44 million), Biliran (₱1.21 million), Tacloban (₱1.19 million) and Maasin (₱822,285).

CLASSROOMS. Like this one in Jaro, Iloilo, served as voting precincts during the elections on May 10. Volunteers are now opening as classes and refurbish the classrooms in time for the opening of classes in June.

Calabarzon police list only 4 election-related violence cases

CAMP VICENTE LIM, LAGUNA—Police in Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon) said only four election-related cases of violence were recorded in the region during the May 10 elections.

The regional police office ordered State for what it said was the peaceful holding of the elections in the region, according to Supt. Antonio Ortiso, regional police chaplain.

"It was all about thanking the unseen hand of the Lord, above all the preparations and (police) command conferences, by guiding and protecting our policemen in following the chain of command and delivering service to the people," he said.

He said the regional police also heeded the national campaign for an "honest, orderly and peaceful elections" through a three-week prayer vigil prior to the May 10 elections.

The four election-related cases of violence recorded this year in Calabarzon included the case of Batangas provincial board member Hermenigilde Dolor who was shot by a member of the Philippine Army on March 11 in Batangas City and the attack on supporters of Antipolo City Mayor Danilo Leviste, allegedly by the camp of his political opponent Angeline Gatlabayan on April 5.

Ortiso added that the other cases involved the election-day killing of two supporters of former Cavite Rep. Plaridel Abaya and the ambush on members of the Philippine Army securing vote-counting machines in Tanay, Rizal, on May 12. PR: Rael Inclole was killed in the May 11 ambush.

In 2007, police recorded 17 cases of election-related violence.

In 2007, police recorded 14 cases, the included the burning of the Pinaglawayan Elementary School in Tayuan, Batangas that killed two teachers.

Supt. Arny Petracio, regional police information officer, attributed the lower number of cases to the nationwide gun ban.

As of May 11, 545 persons, including seven police men and five government officials, were arrested while 409 illegal firearms, of which 158 were high-powered, were recovered. Marlene Cinco, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Appeals court affirms Leviste conviction

By Jerome Aning

THE COURT OF APPEALS has upheld a Makati court ruling finding Jose Antonio Leviste, a former Batangas governor, guilty of homicide for fatally shooting a long-time business associate, Rolando De los Alas, in 2007.

The Cebu 7th Division rejected Leviste's claim that he killed De los Alas in self-defense. Leviste claimed that De los Alas had become "unlawfully aggressive" and had attacked him without provocation.

The justice added P50,000 to the P100,000 death indemnity and moral damages awarded by the lower court to De los Alas' heirs.

The Supreme Court earlier rejected a petition from Leviste seeking to be freed on bail while their case was on appeal.

State prosecutors had filed murder charges against Leviste. But the Makati court found Leviste guilty of homicide and gave him a sentence of six to 12 years in prison.

During an argument in their Makati office on Jan. 12, 2007, Leviste shot De los Alas in front his house. Leviste then rushed the victim to a hospital and later surrendered to the police, claiming he shot De los Alas because the latter was about to shoot him.

The appellate court said it was not convinced of Leviste's defense that De los Alas was about to shoot him. Based on the evidence established in the trial, De los Alas had only drawn his gun but there was no evidence to show that he fired it, the court said.

Premeditated

Aside from establishing that Leviste did not commit any murder, the prosecution also presented a forensic doctor who said that the gun found on De los Alas' hand was probably planted.

The appellate court also described as "bereft of merit" Leviste's claim that he employed reasonable means to repel De los Alas' aggression.

"The successive shots directed against the chest and head of Rafael [de los Alas] evinced that accused-appellant was already the aggressor and not the defender. As such, there was no longer any unlawful aggression to speak of. Where an unlawful aggression that has begun no longer exists, the one who resorts to self-defense has no right to kill or even to wound the former aggressor," the justices said.

The justices also cited forensic evidence showing that after being shot once, De los Alas had instinctively raised his left arm to prevent and defend himself from sustaining further injury.

"It is even true that Leviste was merely defending himself, was prudent, not lax, would have been enough to neutralize De los Alas and prevent him from physically hurting Leviste, the court said.

"Undoubtedly, the accused-appellant went beyond the call of self-preservation when he proceeded to inflict excessive and fatal injuries on Rafael. The wounds used by the accused-appellant, the successive and repeated shooting of Rafael, were adopted by him not only to repel Rafael's aggression but to ensure the latter's death," the court said.

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Noy to take oath before lone lady SC dissenter

From page A1

the Chief Justice now. The lone dissenter, The Hon Justice Marsden. The lone opposition," he quipped (sic).

"I'm inclined to have it that we require it. We have the same return as it will be unwise to defend the position," he added.

Aquino said he had wanted to take his oath before a barangay captain because of its symbolism but the Local Government Code does not require a barangay captain had no authority to swear in a president.

"So, no, that symbolic unity of the smallest basic unit...the barangay—and head of national government down to as much symbolism in having that he will swear in with what the law says," he said.

Aquino reiterated his displeasure with the Supreme Court ruling allowing President Arroyo to make a "midnight appointment" to the judiciary.

"Section 15 of the Constitution) being making," he added.

Aquino noted that both Fr. Joaquin Bernas SJ and former Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., members of the 1986 Constitutional Commission, shared his view.

Aquino also said that he has told the various bishops in his campaign to stop spending especially about positions in his government.

"I have told my Red Boots because this squabbles do not help. I've asked Bunsi to stop because what's important is the work ahead of us," he said.

Aquino also lightly joked about the probable members in his Cabinet but he said he was not committing, so far, appointing members of The Patriots a specific position.

He added that he was thinking about appointing some members of his campaign because they shared his vision and they had his "highest trust."

When asked about his running mate, Sen. Manuel "Mar" Roxas II, Aquino chipped, saying "let's wait one year" but then corrected himself and said that whether he wins or not, they will "work together" in the next six years.

Bataan Governor Enrique Garcia, Eddie Gullas, Jr. and Jose Antonio Goitia.

Aquino said that he would not give special treatment to Imelda Marcos if he outlasts after the Aquino administration is in place but added that he wants a review of the coup charges against Sen. Gen. Rodolfo Lim and Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV.

Aquino says in a cabinet meeting on Wednesday night when he addressed a rumor of Liberal Party members who made it in the House of Representatives.

"I was told by one during the difficult days of the campaign. Today, I'm also with you in our victory," Aquino said. He added that the audience included not only 32 of 65 Liberal Party representatives but also relatives, friends and campaign staff.

Aquino's speech was riddled with jests, often about his relatives' hair, short and fat attending victory in the presidential race.

He said that he "will give 50 percent of the swallowed to Abaya ... so as not to lose my hair." In the unofficial count Roxas is a close second to Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay.

The speech drew laughs and loud applause from the audience.

Roxas was also in attendance on Wednesday, marking the first time after the election that his rival was under the LP roof in front of the media.

Quezon Rep. Erin Tañada stopped aside for the outside Quezon City Rep. Sonny Belmonte to the area for the speakership.

"I was going to give way to Representative Belmonte," Tañada said.

Before Tañada's declaration, Roxas was seen talking to Belmonte at close table. "Let us adjust this to our party's mood," Roxas said of Belmonte's bid for speakership. *With a report from Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz*

Protesters dispersed but Thais still divided, uneasy calm

From page A1

...their temple in a standoff that the military-backed government described as unjustified by his words. It was over by morning.

Dispersed but still polarized

After nine weeks of protests that began with peaceful flag-waving rallies in which bullets descending into gun battles, injuries and church clashes and arrests in May, Thailand entered a new chapter in its political and social history.

Modern Thailand has never seen such a protracted period of urban violence, deadly confrontations and widespread destruction, and has never seemed so close to full-scale conflict.

Protesters may be dispersed, but Thais remain polarized.

"The crisis of the past few weeks has ... only deepened the division within Thailand, which will sustain political tensions and lead to opportunistic political attacks," said Bobby Hersley-Line, head director of the New York-based Stratfor Group.

The unrest has hamstrung Thailand's economy—tourism is ducky, which supports 6 percent of Southeast Asia's second-largest economy and employs 15 percent of Thailand's workforce directly or indirectly.

At what price

A source at state planning agency National Economic and Social Development Board said the economic impact of nine weeks of political turmoil and rioting would easily cost 43 billion, or about 1 percentage point of gross domestic product.

Thailand's economy was not very up to speed before the unrest began, with some say will borrow be translated by overseas, by military operations in which 83 people, mostly civilians, have been killed since April 10.

Nearly 1,800 people have been wounded in the period as the government, backed by Thailand's royalist establishment, and the protesters with their support from the rural masses and ousted Premier Thaksin Shinawatra, failed to find a common ground.

"Mr. Abhisit is more than tarnished. All cross-party discussions are now including Thaksin," said Pongphol Adireksarn, chairman of the Siam Commercial Bank.

The Red Shirts demanded fresh elections, saying Abhisit came to power in a controversy and parliamentary vote in 2008 with their military support. Abhisit last week withdrew an offer of fresh elections.

Silence of the king

Added to the mix is the silence of the country's most-watching figure, revered 82-year-old King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

The world's longest-reigning monarch is revered by most Thailand's last major political crisis—a 1992 middle-class uprising against a military ruler. On Thursday, his course was silent. The king has been in the hospital since Sept. 19 last year.

A cautious by Bangkok and 23 provinces was extended for another three nights, saying questions about whether authorities feared more unrest in a country where the inside of the military and the police are split along the same lines as society itself. Intensifying protests from the government and its affluent backers.

In the north and northeast provinces, a Red Shirt stronghold that is home to just over half of Thailand's 67 million people, there were scattered signs of violence overnight.

But trouble spots were quiet on Thursday and protest leaders capped calm.

'Waiting to rise'

Army spokesperson Sansern Kaewkamnerd said about 13,000 people were still "actively working to end and perpetuate illegal acts" in provinces under a state of emergency.

In Bangkok, fires in 39 city still smoldered but most had been extinguished. Central World, Bangkok's second-biggest department store and a symbol of wealth, was destroyed Thursday of its supporting steel frame had collapsed.

The protesters' turned encampment in the heart of Bangkok's commercial district—an area lined with luxury hotels and shopping plazas—was in ruins with rubble, debris, ash and the smell of refuse and human waste. Troops roamed the area and some were positioned on an overhead subway station.

There were no signs of clashes.

Thousands of soldiers sat on a sidewalk near the violated wreckage of trucks that had been packed with explosives and blown up at barricades overnight. They looked relaxed as combat to the looters of stores, dens, melting at journalists.

The journalists have been shot in six days of violence, including six Italian cameramen killed on Wednesday.

Reconciliation road map

The surrender of key protest leaders on Wednesday and a meeting and he now to violence that has killed at least 39 people and wounded more than 400 to six days would put the leaders on both sides on a "reconciliation road map" the prime minister had proposed before the latest bout of violence.

"We can immediately fix the roads but we do not know how long it will take to fix the wounded hearts and minds of the people," Bangkok Governor Sukhumbhand Paribatra told local television. *Reuters*

Foreigners cry with 'Morong 43' in jail visit; case going international

From page A1

even happy to have been moved to Camp Bagong Diwa from Camp Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal, because of the longer visiting hours they were allowed with their loved ones.

"I was very moved by the women," said Carolyn Arguillas, spokesperson of Solidarity Some Labour Class to Canada. "The first thing they would cry with us—I think it helped a lot that somehow with the new becomes their conditions around more hands."

Upon entering the part of the prison where the male detainees are held, the visitors followed the same protocols as including a strip search.

They then climbed a metal stairway to a concrete hallway lined with cells on the top floor of the prison.

Other male prisoners looked on from behind bars or from the corridor as the visitors to the cells met and spoke with the detainees and their visiting relatives.

"It's very different to read about something (and then) to see the circumstances that they're living in," noted Prof. Udenee Raoul of the University of British Columbia in Canada.

Military pressure

The Morong 43, composed of two doctors, a nurse and other health workers, were arrested by more troops on Feb. 6 as a result of a training session in Morong, Bataan. Suspected of being members of the communist New People's Army (NPA), they were taken to and held at Camp Capinpin.

Five of the 43 remain there, according to detainee Dr. Alexis Montes.

He told the visitors that the five had been "contained by the military by every means—pressure, harassment, torture, even an offer of property to their families...to say that they are NPA."

Some of the five were to testify in court subsequently but Montes said they remain private threat from doing so, according to Montes.

All of us want a speedy and fair trial because we know that we are innocent," he said.

Montes said he saw "optimism" about the upcoming advancement because he had heard about the international pressure, Amnesty International's report on the 43 and "say to help us."

Later in an interview, Fr. Dionisio Cabillas, the head of the local Fr. division of the visit with the detainees, said: "We are really working, it is a very difficult case. We are expecting that within the first 100 days of the new administration, it will be a priority for the political prisoners to be released.

"We are thankful to our bishop (Pantoja) for giving their support to the 43 and to spread the detainees' needs, cries for justice, and demand for freedom."

Morale-booster

Montes said he and the other detainees had heard that there were now growing international attention.

"We are fortunate that this has happened," he said, adding that the visit from the foreigners "boosted our morale."

The other detainees said the visit had given them a renewed sense of hope.

"Now we are really made us happy," Sylvia Gonzalez told the visitors.

Rubilyn Sindelaran, a candidate for festival membership in Canada's Parliament, later talked about being able to "put faces to the names" of the 43.

She said that in meeting the women detainees, she "observed a lot of friendly and powerful people."

"It's appalling that a lot of volunteer health care workers, midwives and doctors are being held for wanting to be health care providers for ... these small rural communities," she said.

Elizabeth Bellaya from the United Church of Canada said what struck her in meeting the detainees' wives "their gentleness for the people they are serving."

"It's not my being here that my worry about. My worry about the people who are waiting for us," she quoted detainee Dr. Merry Mia Gumaro saying.

Bellaya also expressed admiration for health worker Lydia Molleda, who "is very clear about what they were going through in detention was 'nothing compared to the sorrow suffering that our community is experiencing.'"

"The community health workers are presenting a service that the government is supposed to be providing," Bellaya said.

Material for BBC

The foreigners said they planned to discuss the plight of the Morong 43 with Filipinos and with the international media, such as BBC, in their respective countries.

They are part of the People's International Observers' Mission, a delegation of 40 foreigners that monitored the May 10 vote.

Local organizations including Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, Bayanihan and the Society of Fa-

thers against Detention and for Amnesty arranged the visit.

"It is not painful for me to talk about what we went through," community health worker Jacqueline Gonzalez told the visitors. "It was eyes-opening and heart-opening."

Montes said other health-care workers had disappeared, and that many other prisoners at Camp Bagong Diwa did not have who they were arrested.

Long wait

He told the visitors that detainees waited an average of six years behind bars awaiting trial and sentencing before being released because they would not admit a prisoner lawyer.

Rev. Bert DeRuiter of the United Church in Australia, Darwin delivered to pastor detained. It's really frustrating for me to see people who have been threatening on concerns for their community, pulled out and separated from their loved ones."

"I find that unacceptable," he added.

Poll collection fashioned out of tarpaulins, plastic, bullets

From page A1

miniskirts, dresses, bodices and jackets.

The backside of a silver cocktail dress has the eyes and guts of Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. The crux of the creation which features voice blacked out small cardboard with silver paint.

"I was just walking on Session Road when I saw all these [campaign] tarpaulins. They [needed to be] recycled," Alfonso said.

Coming out with his collection was not too hard to accomplish, she said.

2 days' work

It was sick before the event, and my sister [assistant] went home to Baguio to rest so I did all the measuring and sewing in only two days," she said.

Like the latter British designer Alexander McQueen whom she idolizes, Alfonso stuck to her signature trousers, such as short hijab, and sewed all her dresses with a right fit. The result was simply chic.

The dresses models wore black tights, waxed high heels, and sported black lipstick when they displayed Alfonso's dresses on Tuesday at the Baguio Convention Center.

Tolentino Dress Designer, which displayed the dress of candidates, and dress and painted eyes Rizal, having the eyes and mouths, "Alfonso said.

The eye of one model's candidate, for example, Ebabel with from the mouth of one of his full-bodied dresses. Other pieces showed aspects of the candidate's fashion or of the dresses.

Obscured features

Alfonso said she deliberately obscured the features of the candidates.

She displayed the same sense of style when she produced 2009's "Occasional Hot Mess," where she blended and mixed regular party wear clothes and as well as in October 2009's "Corpse Bride," a fashion show that was inspired by Tim Burton's animated movie.

Adding intrigue to the fashion show was Alfonso's musical selection.

The show included audio snippets from the commercials of presidential candidates Benigno Aquino III, Manuel Villar and Joseph Estrada, which Alfonso's brother had mixed with percussions and beatboxes. The mash is aptly similar to David Byrne and Fatboy Slim's "Here Lies Love" album, which tells the story of Imelda Marcos's life.

'Ballistic' collection

The other notable works presented were Josephine Tan-Bo's "ballistic"-collection, which celebrated love for firearms. Tan-Bo showcased four dresses made of spent cartridges and casings from shotguns, 9-mm pistols, .357 Magnum revolvers and .22-cal. handguns.

The bullets made up of female bodice and skirt. Tan-Bo's dress provided a nod to Hollywood style mood clothes as well as in October 2009's "Corpse Bride," a fashion show that was inspired by The Beatles's animated movie.

A whole gown decorated with bullet shells was called "Mighty Bullecity," which she designed in 2008, complete with a mini-shoulder armor, after she was inspired by a war through Quiapo.

Literally luxury

Tan-Bo said she wanted the dress to be literally luxury because the glittering pieces represented the objectification of women. She said the pieces suggested the "bullet gown" women get from men.

Another piece was inspired by the Egyptian goddess Sekhet, she said, and the basic colors inspired by the bullet shells portrayed the goddess' ability to battle disease and evil.

Tan-Bo's work Tendba ay mondo Gonzales. Her family is involved in gold-mining enterprises.

Tan-Bo's cousin during the Dubrun show complemented her work. As one of her bullet gown models walked down the runway, the cousin's voice, via broadcast mode that was interspersed with the sounds of shooting, breathing and heartbeats.

"I'm averse to violence but when opportunity knocks come to me in 2007, I knew I had to face my fear," Tan-Bo said.

This year, a close family member of the designer was killed.

ECO-ELECTORAL CHIC Dresses made of discarded campaign posters, like this one, are all the rage at the Tanauan International Arts Festival.

A partnership program of the Philippine Medical Association and United Laboratories, Inc., as instituted by the Southern Tagalog Association of Medical Practitioners

Trusted Quality Healthcare

19th DR. JOSE P. RIZAL MEMORIAL AWARDS

In Search of the Filipino Physicians of Distinction

THE DR. JOSE P. RIZAL MEMORIAL AWARDS is given to outstanding Filipino physicians whose lives and works reflect the ideals of Rizal in their profession and practice, in their love for fellowmen, the country and God.

Initiated by the Southern Tagalog Association of Medical Practitioners (STAMP), the award hopes to inspire physicians and non-physicians to perpetuate the memory and legacy of Rizal. A trend to more and greater volunteerism selfless service that goes beyond the call of duty is a way of life for the love of human life.

The award began in 1987, when a group of the PMA component presidents from the Southern Tagalog Region conceived of putting an award to accommodating Filipino physicians of the year. The STAMP regional council, headed by **Dr. Gilbrano G. Espiritu** (Cavite), and its present director, **Dr. Aquilino Curino II** (Laguna), decided to give the first-ever award. Later, to make the award national in scope, STAMP sought the support of the Philippine Medical Association and United Laboratories, Inc.

Five outstanding physicians will take these coveted places to join the prestigious roster of honorees in the 19th **DR. JOSE P. RIZAL MEMORIAL AWARDS** during the ceremonies to be held on May 21, 2010, Friday, 8 AM., at the Sta Balbinosa of Tolo Shangri-la Hotel in Mandaluyong City.

Unilab Champions Search for Physicians of Distinction

Behind the prestigious award is the unwavering support of United Laboratories, Inc. Since its founding in 1945, Unilab has become the country's largest and leading pharmaceutical company with more than 200 personal care, over-the-counter, and prescription brands to serve the Filipino family's healthcare needs.

For over 60 years, Unilab has been working hand in hand with the Department of Health as well as its health care allies— doctors, dentists, nurses, and pharmacists, among others— for the welfare of Filipinos by providing affordable quality products and services. By championing the Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Awards, Unilab hopes to inspire everyone— physicians and non-physicians— to nurture, to work together and, ultimately, share the fruits of our achievements.

The Finalists

GOVERNMENT SERVICE

JAIME M. MANILA, M.D.,
Life Member - Iloilo Medical Society

AILEEN A. BIEGO, M.D.,
Life Member - Quezon City Medical Society

AGRIPINO P. TULLAO, M.D.,
Life Member - Quezon Medical Society

OUTSTANDING CLINICAL PRACTICE

ANITA G. LACUESTA, M.D.,
Life Member - Iloilo Medical Society

MANUEL M. PO, M.D.,
Life Member - Quezon City Medical Society

VICTOR C. VINLUAN, M.D.,
Life Member - Mandaluyong Medical Society

ACADEME

REYNALDO A. OLAZO, M.D.,
Life Member - Valenzuela Medical Society

HERMADORA S. CLAUDIO-SANIEL, M.D.,
Life Member - Pasig City Medical Society

MA. VICTORIA C. VILLAREAL, M.D.,
Life Member - Iloilo Medical Society

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

JUBAL G. ABELLAR, M.D.,
Life Member - Iloilo Medical Society

LULU C. BILAO, M.D.,
Life Member - Manila Medical Society

GENERALDO D. MAVLEM, M.D.,
Life Member - Santiago City Medical Society

RESEARCH

RAYANI L. BLAS, M.D.,
Executive Member - Leyte Medical Society

EFREN J. DOMINGO, M.D.,
Life Member - Cavite Medical Society

JAIME C. MONTOYA, M.D.,
Life Member - Manila Medical Society

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Secretary of Health
Chairman, Board of Judges
19th Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Awards

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PMA Governor - Southern Tagalog
Overall Chair, 19th Dr. Jose P. Rizal
Memorial Awards

BENITO P. ATIENZA, M.D., FPPS
President, Southern Tagalog Association
of Medical Practitioners
Co-Chair, 19th Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial
Awards

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President, Cavite Medical Society

EDMUNDO V. BELGA, M.D.
President, Romblon Medical Society

PERCITA BAUTISTA-FULE-VILLANUEVA, M.D.
President, San Pablo City Medical Society

Warmest greetings and salutations to the Philippine Medical Association for holding the 19th Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Awards.

The nearly two decades that have passed wherein the PMA has searched yearly for the country's most outstanding physicians have not only been an awesome recognition (or heighten) the character of the victors declares. More than that, it has been a recognition of doctors who have truly manifested the ideals of nationalism, love and profound humanism and public service; these doctors who have made a difference in the lives of others and have contributed to building the nation. The recipients of this prestigious award are exemplars of these ideals, true living symbols of our nationhood since, Dr. Jose P. Rizal. I am proud to call them my colleagues in this most noble of professions.

Congratulations to all the awardees! May your efforts catalyze more heroic deeds in advancing not only the medical profession, but also the ideals of justice, compassion and equality in the field of health.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

ESPERANZA I. CABRAL, M.D.
Secretary of Health
Chairman, Board of Judges

I would like, first of all, to congratulate this year's awardees for winning one of the most prestigious awards given by the Philippine Medical Association to Filipino physicians who have contributed their share to uplift not only the dignity of the medical profession but also of the health and welfare of our people through the practice of their profession.

The Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Awards was conceived to honor and to serve as an inspiration to our colleagues in the medical profession who, like our national hero, chose to serve our country when the lure of greener pastures of working in foreign lands are becoming too attractive and enticing to resist. In other words, our hero was there to do exactly what Rizal did for our country and our people. What really matters is that any physician, regardless of his field of interest and specialization, can also be a "hero" if he is able, through the practice of his profession, raise the level of health of the people in the community or communities under his care and, primary, as well, programs and activities that will accelerate and enhance the achievement of our health for all objectives.

Moreover, the effort of the PMA to push through with the New Code of Ethics for Physicians underscores the need to rebuild the integrity and honor of the medical profession. Maybe way Dr. Rizal demonstrated during his lifetime. A high sense of professionalism, willingness to sacrifice and to serve our fellowmen are indeed some of the attributes that physicians should possess to make a difference in contributing their share towards the improvement of the country's health and in reducing the inequities in the delivery of health services in the various communities under their care.

On behalf of the PMA National Officers and Board of Governors, we wish to congratulate the awardees of the 19th Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Awards for joining the ranks of the persons awardees who continuously inspire and serve their fellow colleagues as the finest examples of what a Filipino Physician should be.

RET. MELCHIOR T. SANTOS, M.D., MBA, DPSA, FACS
President, Philippine Medical Association

The announcement of winners of the annual Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Awards has always been a cause for celebration. This year is the 19th edition of the awards. We expect it to be as edifying as the previous editions in the celebration of the excellence and dedication of the Filipino Physician.

The current awardees are all exemplary physicians. They have excelled in various fields of medicine, measuring up to the high standards set by the example of our national hero in whose honor and memory the award is named. In their own fashion, this year's awardees have conducted their medical practice that is worthy of emulation by their colleagues in the medical profession. Congratulations!

On behalf of Unilab, we thank the Philippine Medical Association for partnering with us in the Rizal Awards over the years. Our warmest greetings to its officers and members on the holding of the 19th PMA Annual Convention. May you have a fruitful and successful convention as you forge a stronger bond between the physicians and the people for a healthier nation.

ROBERTO V. CAMPOS, JR. '83
Chairman of the Board, United Laboratories, Inc.

Allow me to extend my sincerest and warmest greetings to all of you on this 19th Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Lecture and the 19th Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Awards.

The annual celebration of Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Lecture provides motivation and encouragement to all of us whose main objective is to render high quality health care services to our fellowmen, depicting the medical life and words of Dr. Jose P. Rizal.

It is indeed a great feeling because our noble profession gives us the opportunity to serve our fellowmen with deepest commitment. This year's celebration of Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Awards recognizes and salutes our fellow physicians who have rendered exemplary deeds to our fund. Their exciting deeds will surely bring great contribution to the field of medicine. My CONGRATULATIONS to all awardees!

We give credit and the people behind the success of this celebration, our sponsors, board of judges and members of the committee. Let me extend my deepest appreciation to all of you for your invaluable time and essential support in making this event a fulfillment.

Thank you very much and let us continue to be good pillars of our community.

May the good Lord bless us all. Mabuhay Po Dayong Lahat!

SENEN M. ZAPANTA, JR., M.D.
Overall Chair, 19th Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Awards
PMA Governor - Southern Tagalog

For the past months the STAMP officers in cooperation with Unilab had series of meetings for the promotion, search and screening of the nominees for the 19th Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Awards.

The stories of these fifteen finalists are not just about the physician. They are about patients. They illustrate the physician-patient relationship at its best, a relationship that is at the heart of everything we do as physicians in clinical practice, academe, research, government and community service. All of them had outstanding medical credentials and exceptional achievements in their own field of practice.

In behalf of the STAMP officers, I would like to thank the Board of Judges headed by the DOH Secretary, Hon. Dr. Esperanza Cabral for accepting the task of choosing the best among the five doctors to be awarded today.

To Unilab, thank you very much for your continuing support.

To all companions, specially our affiliate societies of PMA, assuming takaw pa rin tayong pilitin na sagutin!

Mabuhay ang STAMP! Mabuhay ang PMA!

BENITO P. ATIENZA, M.D., FPPS
Co-Chair, 19th Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Awards
President, Southern Tagalog Association of Medical Practitioners (STAMP)

Locsin loses it in House hearing over his 'baby'

From page A1

ed election results have differed by millions.

The lawmakers applauded him.

Locsin's only Lotus was among those who lost in the controversial elections. She tries to explain why her husband-an engineer, father of Makati's first family's bar boy by a close margin to Monique Lagdameo of PDP-Laban.

Locsin's outburst came during a session of the House committee on suffrage and electoral reforms, which heard an array of complaints from lovers in the May 10 elections.

His baby

After the hearing, Locsin explained to reporters that he was provoked to it if the executive branch of government had not initiated some isolated cases. He said he would not draw conclusions about the elections just yet because automation was his "baby."

"This was my baby. Only involving Mountain's baby, but it was still my baby," he said. He was referring to a suspense movie in the 1980s about a woman named Rosemary who could not conceive, eventually bear Satan's child after her husband struck a pact with devil worshippers.

He knew the effect they were not offended by Locsin's remarks.

Smartmatic explains

Hendra Garcia, Smartmatic-Temasoft's systems manager, explained that the precinct count optical scan (PCOS) machines were stand-alone machines and witnessed the time configured into their internal clocks before they left the warehouses.

Since they were not synchronized with any other machines, it was possible their internal clocks were not corrected.

The time stamp function was included in the PCOS machines in order to reflect the sequence of actions, Garcia added.

He said that even if the time stamp was inaccurate, the secrecy would accept the election returns transmitted from the machine because it did not look at the time, but at the digital signature.

But Locsin was unhappy with the answer, saying he was assured that if wrong was place between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., it would be reflected that way.

"I didn't know that 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. could be moved to 11 in the evening. So you confirm what a fool you've made of Congress? Why passed this law?" he said, his voice rising.

He 3,000 registrars was missing from the account.

Isolated cases

Commission on Elections (Comelec) Chair Jose Melo said the discrepancies in the time stamp did not appear to be isolated or widespread problem.

"You see it, there were only several of them complaining about that. There may be isolated cases," Melo told reporters, adding that the poll body would look into the matter.

As for holding Smartmatic responsible for the time stamp discrepancies, he said that if it was not deliberately done and there was only a few cases, there may be no reason to do so.

Asked about Locsin's experience, Melo said he was out of the room at the time.

Comelec spokesperson James Jimenez said the time stamp from the PCOS machine was not that crucial because there were other procedures that would prove that voting took place, such as the printing of election returns in the presence of witnesses and the media being conducted of the results.

"So even if the time stamp is wrong but if you take the machine-looking cabbage as consideration, you can establish when that data came out," he said.

Jimenez also said it was the losers who were disputing the elections.

"They are using it to say that it seems that no election took place because the time stamp becomes different. That's legislation ... It's in the interest to say an election took place because their lost but ultimately, if you take all of these documents again, it's evident, you can see that elections took place and it was also painted at the right time," he said.

Lawyers present evidence

Before the elections, some candidates felt that poll automation was between sent. When the results came out, they seemed to think it came from left.

One such candidate who seemed to have changed his views about automation was North Cotabato Vice Gov. Manny Pinol, who lost in the governor's gubernatorial race.

Pinol was one of those who presented to the committee what they said were evidence of fraud.

Pinol said he had high hopes for automation and even declared victory after he was told they were approached by certain people offering electronic votes for P200 each. He also thought Smartmatic would not risk inflicting it cognizance.

"I was dead wrong," he said.

Prepared ballots

Pinol claimed choosing votes in the form of thousands of prepared ballots that were fed into the voting machines to remove precincts in the province.

He said he also discovered election returns given to watchers' cabals were printed on three-quad paper bearing the markings "Mandaluyong citiHall."

Pinol presented photocopies of the returns to the committee. Election results were accomplished before the actual vote, he alleged.

Comelec Chairman Director Jose Tolentino said that though the poll body presided some rolls of security thermal paper for the election inspectors, some watchers might have run out of supplies and used other kinds of thermal paper.

Atienza's grievance

Manila mayoralty candidate Lito Atienza reproached on the his grievances, such as that the election returns have different dates and times and that election returns were prepared at the Manila City Hall.

Atienza lost in re-electionist Mayor Alfredo Lim.

Atienza also presented Brian in City Hall computer operator Rodolfo Rabaya, who had allegedly had his colleagues manipulated election results at an office under Lim.

Lim's camp has denied Atienza's allegations. Comelec has said the supposed election returns were stemming from unofficial tally sheets.

Something in machines

Junipedo Rep. Angelina Gardiola, who also lost his reelection bid, complained about the 60 voting machines that a fraudulent official had kept in his house for safekeeping. Two of these machines were opened, and he said he discovered something but was keeping it to himself in the meantime.

Bohol Rep. Edgar Chatto, who also lost in his reelection bid, said the people in his district refused to believe the election results.

He said one election returns Senatorial president showed he was supposed to win by 102 votes, but when he checked with the Comelec, he lost by 17 votes.

'Dear Gloria,' you've . . .

From page A1

social networking site to serve as a virtual oath board for letters to outgoing President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Below with more than 4,000 people "liking" the page (as of 5 p.m. yesterday), it has teamed into a forum of virtuous remarks and expressions of relief that Ms Arroyo's term is ending.

And it is being updated almost every minute.

Pastor Jun Tomas: "Good riddance. We wish that you will never return but to leave."

Jay Ann Ramos: "Thank you for everything you have done for us."

Mr Arroyo, who is to step down from the presidency on June 30, has been provisional representative of the second district of Pampanga.

"Thank God you're now leaving this evil thrilling!"), "Kumpiklan-jan sense in Filipino. "Clean sweep sa 2010 para sa Pilipinas. Ang sarap ng feeling!"

Members of the Manila Thrift Shop gave thing you can give the Filipinos—the relief you regime."

Collective anger

Michael Fortun accused the writers of Pampanga's second district of intangibility and Mr Arroyo of vote-buying.

Thread Gandhi remembered Mr Arroyo's father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal. "I think she was raised well by her father, he was a good president. But why is she like this?"

Photo Rama Sandoz: "Last night, I tried to cuddle the left of the Bingo 54 sincerely state about you and your administration. Five, 10, 15, 20, 30 minutes passed by. Nothing. Rest, it hit me.

"What I'll actually state most about you is not really you, but the collective anger of the people of three people who have had enough of your lesser-presidency and how this collective anger turned to into politically active citizens. And how this anger resulted in to be more vigilant and critical of our government."

"That, I'm sincerely thanking you for."

Others made do with one line only:

+ "All I can say is, the worst is over. Let's all judge her."

+ "Goodbye! Don't come back!"

+ "It's a bad luck!"

And these are the kindest comments.

Palace won't go to gutter

The page's members and hostile events (or opinions) described "Dear Gloria" as a "shameless gift" and "history written by many."

It does not have a moderator, which is why even the most hostile comments are posted, including a mockingly-phrased wishes for her demise.

Mips Stupa said she found the page after hearing the reaction of Mr Arroyo's deputy spokesperson Gary Olivar to the letters.

"It's there right and I have less chats to be as bad and as stupid as they were. Mr Palace will not join them in the gutter," Stupa quoted Olivar as saying.

The man has exercises to Gloria's reaction: "Our friend Mr. Olivar, a veteran of an educated person working in our government, looking down on the opinions and views of the People. With the kind of arrogance, look who is stupid. Filipinos are not stupid, nor are they ignorant. They are merely expressing their sentiments that mimicked the hatred of said electoral returns."

Bayabas Rep. Maximo Paredes-Rodriguez, who failed in his reelection bid, raised the issue about the discrepancies found in the random manual audit in his district.

Surrender passports

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But there are also some positive comments, although they are in the minority.

Bryan Nolta Villalonso: "You are being owned by a lot of people who think they are dean and can do better. God forgive them."

Jun Pedro de la Cruz thanked Mr Arroyo "for the bridges, the toll roadways and the toilet paper."

He added: "What about all those, thank you for doing what you think is right, despite being a constant target for criticism and mud-slinging. I believe that justice will be served when it is due."

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Ricardo Tan Gandhi thanked the letters and reclaim the glory that you name once held as the impressing of your political career. Thank you Madam President, the lessons and most diligent one of all. Maraming salamat Inang Gloria."

Ricardo Tan Gandhi thanked Mr Arroyo's father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal. "I think she was raised well by her father, he was a good president. But why is she like this?"

Photo Rama Sandoz: "Last night, I tried to cuddle the left of the Bingo 54 sincerely state about you and your administration. Five, 10, 15, 20, 30 minutes passed by. Nothing. Rest, it hit me.

"What I'll actually state most about you is not really you, but the collective anger of the people of three people who have had enough of your lesser-presidency and how this collective anger turned to into politically active citizens. And how this anger resulted in to be more vigilant and critical of our government."

"That, I'm sincerely thanking you for."

Others made do with one line only:

+ "All I can say is, the worst is over. Let's all judge her."

+ "Goodbye! Don't come back!"

+ "It's a bad luck!"

And these are the kindest comments.

Palace won't go to gutter

The page's members and hostile events (or opinions) described "Dear Gloria" as a "shameless gift" and "history written by many."

It does not have a moderator, which is why even the most hostile comments are posted, including a mockingly-phrased wishes for her demise.

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Jun Pedro de la Cruz

NAMFREL

STATEMENT ON 2010 ELECTIONS

The 2010 Elections was a celebration of democracy by our people. The National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections commends all those who played a role in the administration and conduct of the May 10, 2010 elections, most especially the teachers who served as Boards of Election Inspectors and the voters who endured difficulties and inconveniences but nonetheless accepted the new automated system.

The most dramatic improvement in the elections was in the counting and tabulating of votes, which occurred at unprecedented speeds for Philippine elections. Early tabulations were available within hours of the polls' closing and significant numbers were reported by midnight of election day.

The second most dramatic change in the political scene came perhaps in the change of behavior of losing candidates. In prior elections, losing candidates rarely, if ever, conceded defeat. In this election, losing Presidential candidates quickly conceded their loss within 48 hours of elections, thereby reducing political tension and contributing to the public acceptance of results. This is a significant change in the Philippine political scene.

Nonetheless, we wish to state our concerns and recommendations on a number of matters in the spirit of constructive observation in the hope that steps will be taken to further improve the system :

LONG LINES. Long queues – as long as four hours or more in many places – were seen throughout the day. These were due to the inconsistent implementation of voting procedures and not well-thought out clustering of precincts. Fortunately, the long queues appeared to have had minimal effect on people's participation in the elections. Voter turnouts remained high, although lower than other election years, perhaps as a result of some people opting to go home after waiting in lines for some stretch of time.

CERTIFIED VOTERS LIST. The CVL still contained spurious names. There were also reports of voters who were not able to locate their names in the CVL or who were not able to determine their precinct assignments.

ELECTION VIOLENCE AND VOTE-BUYING. Though not directly related to the election automation program, various incidents of election-related violence, vote-buying, flying voters, and underage voting were reported in different parts of the country. There were also some cases of failure of elections in scattered localities in the Visayas and Mindanao due to non-delivery or mis-delivery of election items or due to local disturbances. As already stated, the long queues at voting centers may have also discouraged some voters from exercising their right to vote. These are matters of concern to all of us because disenfranchisement is a violation of a voter's rights and more progress must be made in the coming years to minimize these occurrences.

NO BALLOT SECRECY. There was little or no secrecy in the filling up of ballots and inserting of ballots in PCOS machines. The length of the ballot, the close proximity to voters lining up to receive the ballots, and the size of the "secrecy" folder, and the method of inserting ballots into the PCOS machine with pollwatchers standing beside voters did not lend itself to any confidentiality of a person's vote. This is an aspect which must be closely looked into and remedied in future elections.

WHERE WERE THE UV LAMPS? In the printing of ballots, the COMELEC announced that the wrong UV ink was used and that the UV lamps in the PCOS machines would have to be disabled. In order to detect counterfeit ballots, COMELEC announced that it would instead purchase approximately P28 – P30 million worth of portable UV lamps for the BEI to use. In spite of this, we have heard numerous reports of no UV lamps seen nor used at various voting centers.

WE URGE COMPLETION OF THE COUNTING. The pace of counting and canvassing has considerably slowed after the burst of speed seen in the first 24 to 48 hours after elections. Given that enough time has lapsed for all other remaining counts to have been completed and for election returns to have been picked up, it will be important for the public to receive a full report on this, especially as this may have material effect in tight races. It appears that thousands of PCOS machines have not yet transmitted their results for a variety of reasons. We recommend that a full report be given on the status of these machines and their results and that these areas be included in the Random Manual Audit.

DO NOT DESTROY CF CARDS OR DELETE DATA. Because of the replacement of CF cards one week before elections and the occurrence of some erroneously transmitted reports, we recommend that the COMELEC not destroy any of the recalled cards nor delete any of the erroneously transmitted reports from canvassing system laptops. Under Section 27 of RA 9369, a complete review of the Automated Election System needs to be undertaken and we feel this review should include the recalled and replaced CF cards and all reports submitted for canvass.

RANDOM MANUAL AUDITS (RMA) MUST BE COMPLETED AT THE SOONEST POSSIBLE TIME. The COMELEC must report to the public about the status of the audits and where they took place. Although NAMFREL was not an accredited citizens arm for the random manual audit inspite of the presence of two retired chairpersons from the country's two largest audit firms on its national council, NAMFREL witnessed initial random manual audits in Metro Manila, particularly in San Juan and Quezon City. Our main observations were that no other observers were present for the entire process, either from the accredited citizens arm or political parties. While minor differences were found in votes counted for some candidates between the machine and manual counts, it must be noted that in at least two instances, PCOS machine counts recorded more ballots counted than there were in the ballot box. The implementation of random manual audits remains one of the unfinished tasks of this election. The check of hash codes per machine against the original hash codes stored in Bangko Sentral files also still needs to be completed. A full report of the audits for this election should be of help in identifying potential problem areas in the system.

THE AUTONOMOUS REGION OF MUSLIM MINDANAO CONTINUES TO PRESENT CHALLENGES TO THE ELECTORAL PROCESS. We had already pointed out the potential for problems and issues, starting with the voters lists which indicated large increases in numbers of registered voters from 2007 to 2010. (Note : COMELEC records indicated a 42% increase in ARMM and 93% increase in Lanao del Sur). Moreover, the area has had a history of vote-buying, election-related violence, flying and underage voters, and vote count manipulation. In this regard, we had earlier recommended that elections be held separately and in advance in ARMM using the AES system. This would have served as both a pilot test of the system as well as a means of minimizing any other election-related risks as all COMELEC resources and attention could have been brought to bear on the region. However, new legislation is required for this. The incoming Congress should seriously consider such an approach.

PUBLIC REPORT ON THE PERFORMANCE OF SMARTMATIC. In light of the failure of hundreds of PCOS machines on election day, the problem with the CF cards during the testing, the failure of thousands of PCOS machines to transmit election reports, and the slowdown in the Consolidation and Canvassing System (CCS) in the past few days, COMELEC should evaluate and release a report on whether its AES supplier has satisfied the terms of its contract.

COMELEC TO RENDER A REPORT ON THE EXPENSES INCURRED IN IMPLEMENTING THE AES. COMELEC as a public enterprise should render a report to the public on the various expense items incurred in running the elections. This is necessitated in light of the coming out of a COMELEC employee/insider denouncing irregularities in transactions of the poll body. How much of the P 16.5 billion total budget for the May 2010 elections was spent?

NAMFREL will continue to process the numerous incident reports it has received from all across the country and will run a comparison of its election return data against publicly available data for further analysis. In the meantime, we look forward to the successful conclusion of the canvassing process and proclamation. Many lessons have been learned from this exercise and it is our hope that these lessons will be processed to improve the system.

"It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness."

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DID YOU KNOW

THE NATIONAL Shrine of Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage in Antipolo City, Rizal, is also known as the Cathedral Parish of the Immaculate Conception.
Cyril L. Bautista, Inquirer Research

school supplies? simple lang.
More cash. No worries.
- Collateral-free, low interest rates
- Credit decision in as fast as 3 days
- Best of all, you earn rebates!*
PSBank Flexi Personal Loan with PRIME REBATE
Simple lang, Hindi mahirap.

'YOUR END IS NEAR'

Foreign contractors get death threats

By Jeannette I. Andrade

A GROUP OF FOREIGNERS WORKING ON THE PASIG River rehabilitation project have reported that they have been receiving death threats in the form of text messages sent to their cell phones since last month.

The contractors from Belgium, Singapore and Thailand who work for Baggerwerken Decloedt and Zn Co., a marine and waterway construction, went to the General Assignment Section of the Manila Police District to ask for help yesterday.

The company, which is involved in the dredging of Pasig River, has been working in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources since November 2008.

Belgian project manager Jeroen de Steve said operatives that they started receiving death threats in April, right after they terminated the contracts of some Filipino workers.

"The text messages are centered mainly that we were only foreign contractors who had no permanent working visas so it would be easy for us to get killed in the Philippines," De Steve said.

Most of the text messages, however, from the same number—a warning that they should leave the country immediately.

De Steve said that the threats would not have alarmed them at all if the sender had made no mention of their families.

He added that one of the text messages he received said, "Beware, your end is near. You get killed with you're (sic) wife and all foreigners on site. Your coffin are (sic) ready."

Manila police investigators said they were conducting follow-up operations to identify the text message senders and apprehend them.

RESCUE workers give first aid to the driver of a dump truck which collided with another truck on Payatas Road, Quezon City. The driver and his helper were killed while three other people riding in the back of the vehicle were injured. NICKEE OCHOA

2 killed, 3 hurt as truck rams truck in QC

By Julie Pl. Aurelio

A TRUCK DRIVER AND HIS HELPER who were running away from pursuing policemen died after the dump truck they were riding in collided with another truck in Quezon City before dawn yesterday.

The fatalities were identified as Jomar Teves, 24, the driver of the truck, and his helper Sonny Lasac, 17. Both victims were residents of San Miguel Avenue in Pasig City.

Traffic investigator SPO1 Edgardo Dalacay of the Quezon City Police District's Traffic Sector 5 said three other people were injured in the accident which happened at around 12:50 a.m. on Payatas Road.

They were Greg Hanta, 21; Lorenzo Gregorio, 17; and Redel Asevillo, 34, residents of Pasig City who were riding in the back of Teves' truck.

Based on a police report, Teves, who was on his way to Rodriguez town in Rizal, first hit a Mitsubishi Adventure van driven by Melvin Ilom at the corners of Commonwealth Avenue and Litex Road.

Instead of stopping, Teves drove away, prompting Ilom to go to the Batasan police station to report the accident, the report added.

Upon receiving Ilom's complaint, police officials immediately dispatched a mobile team to go after Teves.

Members of the mobile police team later spotted the dump truck with Teves behind the wheel being driven at top speed on Payatas Road.

The police report said that when the truck reached the area of Group 9 in Barangay Payatas, it rammed another dump truck which was parked on the road.

The impact caused Teves' truck to flip over, pinning Teves and Lasac inside the vehicle.

On the other hand, Hanta, Gregorio and Asevillo were thrown off the truck.

Bystanders rushed them to East Avenue Medical Center for treatment.

The driver of the other dump truck, Danilo Ribano, 52, was not hurt.

25 houses destroyed as fire hits slum area

By Julie Pl. Aurelio

A FIRE RAZED 25 HOUSES IN A slum community in Quezon City yesterday morning.

The blaze resulted in no deaths or injuries among residents as arson investigators said they were still trying to determine what caused it.

At press time, the damage to property was also still being estimated.

The fire started at around 10 a.m. in Purok Tamisan, Barangay Bagumbayan.

It reached the first alarm an hour later, destroying 25 houses in the area, according to the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP).

The BFP added that the fire spread quickly as most of the houses in the area were built close to each other and made mostly of light materials. It was put out at around 11:15 a.m.

Meanwhile, 20 houses were also destroyed when a fire broke out on Wednesday evening in Barra, Navotas City. Just like the fire in Purok Tamisan, there were no deaths or injuries although the blaze reached the fifth alarm before it was finally placed under control.

Man who jumped bail gets 12-14 years in jail for drugs

By Tina G. Santos

A MAN WHO WAS CAUGHT IN possession of illegal drugs nearly four years ago was sentenced in absentia to suffer 12 to 14 years in jail by a Manila court.

Judge Caroline Rivera Cabacungan of the Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 23 also meted out a fine of P300,000 to Arnaldo Sano.

Sano was convicted for violating Section 11 of Republic Act 9165 otherwise known as the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

Court records showed that SPO1 Ricardo Diamsomda, who had testified for the prosecution, was investigating a robbery case on Delpan Street in Tondo, Manila, on May 20, 2006, when he noticed Sano holding a plastic sachet containing a white crystalline substance.

Based on his suspicion that the sachet contained shabu, the policemen told Sano to empty his pockets.

Found in one of their recoveries sachet which contained the same substance.

Subsequent laboratory tests confirmed that the sachets contained several grams of shabu.

Charges were later filed against Sano but he jumped bail and went into hiding.

In her decision, the judge said, "Flight, in jurisprudence, has always been a strong indication of guilt, betraying a desire to evade responsibility."

With Abigail Bohler

MOVING OUT DAY
A vendor pushes his mobile stall away from the area surrounding Baclaran Church in Parañaque City as members of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority's unit known as sidewalk vendors

Street sweepers file complaint vs cop

By Paolo Cuanto

A GROUP OF STREET SWEEPers filed a complaint yesterday morning against a police official who allegedly destroyed their belongings in Quiapo, Manila.

Reynaldo Antonio, Norma Wood, Sidronio Chavez and Jeffrey Ong—street sweepers assigned to the Quiapo area—accused Senior Insp. Rodolfo Sanmartin of the Plaza Miranda police community precinct of destroying a makeshift locker where they kept their vehicles and sweeping utensils.

Antonio told the Inquirer that at around 6:30 a.m. yesterday, they had just finished eating breakfast when one of Sanmartin's men approached them and asked if they could move their locker to a less crowded area.

The group of street sweepers said they immediately complied. However, Sanmartin reportedly approached them and ordered them to move their belongings somewhere else.

When they asked him if it was okay for the locker to be left at the police office, Sanmartin reportedly cursed them, called the locker and destroyed their things.

He then instructed his friend who operated his pedicab to drive him to the police.

A dangerous race set up and a police team later arrested the two on Marcos Highway. The cab driver, however, refused to stop, leading to a chase which ended in Hinulugang Taktak, Antipolo City.

Drexie Jilbe Peñaflor

Taxi driver nabbed for refusing to release passenger

A TAXI DRIVER WHO REFUSED to let his passenger out of the cab despite his pleas was arrested after the police chased him all the way from Quezon City to Antipolo.

Chief Insp. Jovane de la Cruz, the head of the Mobile Patrol Unit of the Quezon City Police District, identified the taxi driver as Jomel Bacilanda, 32.

He was arrested after he refused to let his passenger, Aida Bautista, 46, of Commodore, Cavite, alight from the cab.

Based on a police report, Bautista boarded the taxi at around 1:30:00 p.m. at Tire Port in Tagaig City. She told Bacilanda to take her to Banawe in Quezon City but at the corner of Edsa, corner Quezon Avenue, Bacilanda informed her that he had just received a text message from a regular customer who wanted his services.

He added that he would just drop her off but Bautista insisted on being driven to her destination.

Irked, the driver sped off toward Marcos Highway. Bautista said that she got frightened and asked him to stop so that she could get out of the vehicle but he refused.

She then contacted her friend who reported her plight to the police.

A dangerous race set up and a police team later arrested the two on Marcos Highway. The cab driver, however, refused to stop, leading to a chase which ended in Hinulugang Taktak, Antipolo City.

Drexie Jilbe Peñaflor

Rob gang leader killed in shootout with cops

By Miko Morales

AUTOMOTIVE ENTHUSIAST DIED ON Wednesday night in Makati City after suspected leader of a gang which was described by the police as the one behind several robberies involving passengers of public utility vehicles in the cities of Las Piñas, Muntinlupa and Makati.

Senior Supt. Froilan Bonilla, Makati police chief, said Reynaldo Macasio, 31, died on the spot after he and two of his cohorts shot it out with intelligence operatives of the Makati police at the corner of Don Hemet and Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue in Barangay San Isidro.

Bonilla said that operatives, he dispatched a police team to the area where Macasio and his gang were known to prey on passengers of public utility vehicles.

"The suspects were initially flagged down because they were driving [motorcycles] without helmets," the official said in a phone interview. "But instead of stopping, they sped off, prompting our policemen to chase them."

However, Macasio, who was on one of the two motorcycles, hit a jeepney in his hurry to get away from the police.

He got off the motorcycle, pulled out a gun and fired at his pursuers who fired back, Bonilla said.

Macasio was hit and died on the spot while his two cohorts were able to escape.

Macasio, according to the police, was the leader of a gang which was given the name "Jake Dedo Gang" because they always asked their victims, mostly passengers of public buses and jeepneys, to drop their valuables into a sack.

"The group rarely to be violent when they roll their victims," Bonilla said, pointing out that Macasio and his men were known to shoot into victims who refuse to turn over their valuables to them.

According to Bonilla, they have stepped up their anti-crime operations in anticipation of the opening of classes next month.

MetroBriefs

Early Christmas for Manila City Hall workers

MANILA City government employees will be receiving a bonus this month, according to Vice Mayor Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagoso. Domagoso said that before he asked for vacation, Mayor Alfredo Lim had instructed him to make sure that employees would get their cash gifts which are normally released at the first week of June. On top of this, city government workers will also receive half of their 13th month pay, a bonus usually given at the end of the year. The cash gifts, which range from P5,000 to P15,000, consist of city hall employees, which number around 10,000. Moreno also announced that he and Lim had already discussed plans to implement a loading program for government employees. Nael C. Salaño

Driver files complaint against cop-extortionist

A 25-YEAR-OLD taxi driver yesterday, a complaint against a policeman who allegedly stole his driver's license after he refused to give the latter extortion money. Randy Santamaria Jr., 34, filed the complaint at the Manila Police District Homicide Assignment Section Desk a week after the policeman, an acquaintance, flagged his driver while he was driving on Del Pan De Alge in Tondo at around 11:30 p.m. on Wednesday. Santamaria said the policeman asked for his driver's license which he handed over. However, when the latter did not respond and simply demanded money in exchange for his driver's license. Jeannette I. Andrade

Baby with heart disease needs help

By Santiago R. Montero

BOMBASE

BAY BOMBASE'S four-month-old baby Dixon was born with a heart disease.

Based on the clinical abstract from the Philippine General Hospital, the patient has Atrial Septal Defect with Right Ventricular Hypertrophy (ASD), a condition in which the ventricle is thickened.

The surgical operation for the closure of the artery would cost an estimated P145,000, including the use of an occlusion device.

Bombase works as a tricycle driver in Barangay Bangkal, Makati City.

He said he and his live-in partner, Geraldine Tarobe, take turns in attending to their baby who has been confined at the Capitol Medical Center since May 13 for pneumonia, a complication common to patients who have difficulty breathing.

Those who want to help the couple can call them at 843-1220, 0921-9485232 (Bay) and 0930-7542958 (Geraldine). Donors can deposit their donations in Bay Bombase's Metrobank account (account number 1450304217991).

KIA MOTORS

HONORS 4 TOP RP DEALERS

Kia Pasig achieves KMC Platinum Distinction

PLATINUM DISTINCTION AWARD

Kia recognized and honored four of its authorized dealers in the Philippines, part of Kia Motors Corporation's (KMC) network of dealers around the world, with Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze awards as part of its Kia Dealer Excellence Program or K-DEP, which is the Korean car company's major dealer enhancement program.

The K-DEP is a series of Kia dealer-focused activities similar in concept to Ford's Blue Oval or Chrysler's Five Star awards, which re- cognizes dealer achievement and initiative, in terms of competency, performance, and customer satisfaction. In the Philippines, the program is spearheaded by Columbian Autocar Corporation (CAC), Kia's authorized distributor in the Philippines.

The Philippine awardees, together with their trophies, were announced during a Dealer Awards Night held at The Grove pavilion recently. Kia Pasig (Autocentrix, Inc.) received the coveted Platinum Dealer Certification. A distinction only bestowed to those that would meet Kia's Global Dealer Standards. On the other hand, Kia Dumaguete romped away with the Gold award for their achievement in Kia's Act Smart Campaign. The Silver was won by Kia Cagayan de Oro while Kia Marikina got the Bronze award. The Act Smart Campaign was established by Kia Motors Service Group to "foster solutions to dealerships' internal and external facilities worldwide. The main aim is through the so-called 3S movement of setup, sort and sweep. In 2007, the method was enhanced, and standard evaluation was implemented. Dealers that have been evaluated using the new method automatically qualify in the program. Selections of awardees are based on the relative efforts exerted by Kia dealers to improve its assessment points. Only dealers that achieve a minimum improvement from their previous standard evaluation ratings can become candidates for the award. These standard evaluation reports are submitted to the Distributor Dealer Management System or DDMS which are then reviewed and scrutinized by KMC's Project Planning Group, International Business Division. Based on the number of dealers that have achieved the minimum prescribed improvement and have qualified for the award, KMC then conducts the winners' screening. In 2006, Autocentrix Inc. (known then as PEMSA) Inc. was the recipient of the Gold Award of Kia's Act Smart Campaign while Kia Pasay won the same award in 2005. The program was not implemented and subjected to review in 2007 and incorporated as part of the overall Kia Dealer Excellence Program.

Meanwhile, a total of six local dealers were recognized for their outstanding Sales and After-Sales achievement. The Outstanding Sales Award is based on the total sales volume achieved by the dealership in 2008. The Outstanding After-Sales Award on the other hand is based on a set of criteria that includes facilities and operations evaluation, target achievement in the areas of workshop and parts sales, and overall support for CAC initiated programs and policies.

This year's overall winners for sales is Kia Cebu which also received recognition for topping the sales in the Visayas region. Other dealers who were cited for their outstanding sales achievement in 8,000 sedans Kia Nine Months for Metro Manila, Kia Pampanga for Luzon and Kia Cagayan de Oro for Mindanao.

After-Sales Awards were conferred on Kia Pasig for Metro Manila, Kia Batangas for Luzon, Kia Cebu for Visayas and Kia Cagayan de Oro for Mindanao.

KMC ACT SMART AWARDEES

NATIONAL SALES AWARDEE
KIA CEBU

6 local dealers also recognized for sales and after-sales achievement

SALES AWARDEES

AFTER-SALES AWARDEES

KIA MOTORS
The Power to Surprise

The WORLD

Editor Lorenzo B. Gozco

South Korea says North torpedoed ship

Int'l condemnation immediate, other from China which urges restraint

SEOUL—SOUTH KOREA ACCUSED THE RECLUSIVE North on Thursday of torpedoing one of its warships, heightening tension in the economically powerful region and testing the international position of China, Pyongyang's only major backer.

South Korea said it would take "firm" measures against its impoverished neighbor, which furiously responded that it was ready for war if Seoul or its allies imposed sanctions.

A report by investigators, including experts from the United States, Australia, Britain and Sweden, concluded that a North Korean submarine had fired the torpedo which sank the Cheonan corvette in March, killing 46 sailors.

"There is no other plausible explanation," their report said.

Financial markets in Seoul showed little reaction to the widely anticipated findings of the report but were watching nervously for any serious escalation in tensions.

"The key is what kind of measures South Korea will take and how North Korea will react to them," said Choi Seung-ho, an analyst at SK Securities.

"If things become violent it will affect foreign investors, but for today the impact from the attack itself will be limited."

International condemnation was immediate, with the stark exception of China, which analysts say is desperate to avoid any action that might destabilize its ostensible neighbor and lead to a spill-over into its territory.

A senior South Korean government official said previously that the attack appeared to have been in revenge for a firefight near the disputed North-South border late last year in which the North's navy was humiliated.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon called the sinking of the South Koreans investigation deeply troubling.

But the United States and Britain gave their backing to the findings, with the White House calling it an act of aggression that was another sign of the North's unacceptable behavior.

Japan ruled out the resumption of nuclear disarmament talks by five regional powers and the North, and said Washington should no more trust such a suspicious attempt at ending Pyongyang's torture for a promise to drop its nuclear arms were unthinkable.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Ma Zhaoxu urged both sides in the divided Korean peninsula to exercise restraint, and said Beijing would make its own assessments of the South Korean investigation.

South Korean President Lee Myung-bak will hold an emergency meeting of his National Security Council on Friday. His government has already made clear it has no plans for a retaliatory strike but will be pressing the international community to take action, probably more sanctions, against the North.

"We will be taking firm, responsive measures against the North, and through international cooperation, we have to make the North admit its wrongdoing and come back as a responsible member of the international community," Lee was quoted by his office as telling Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd.

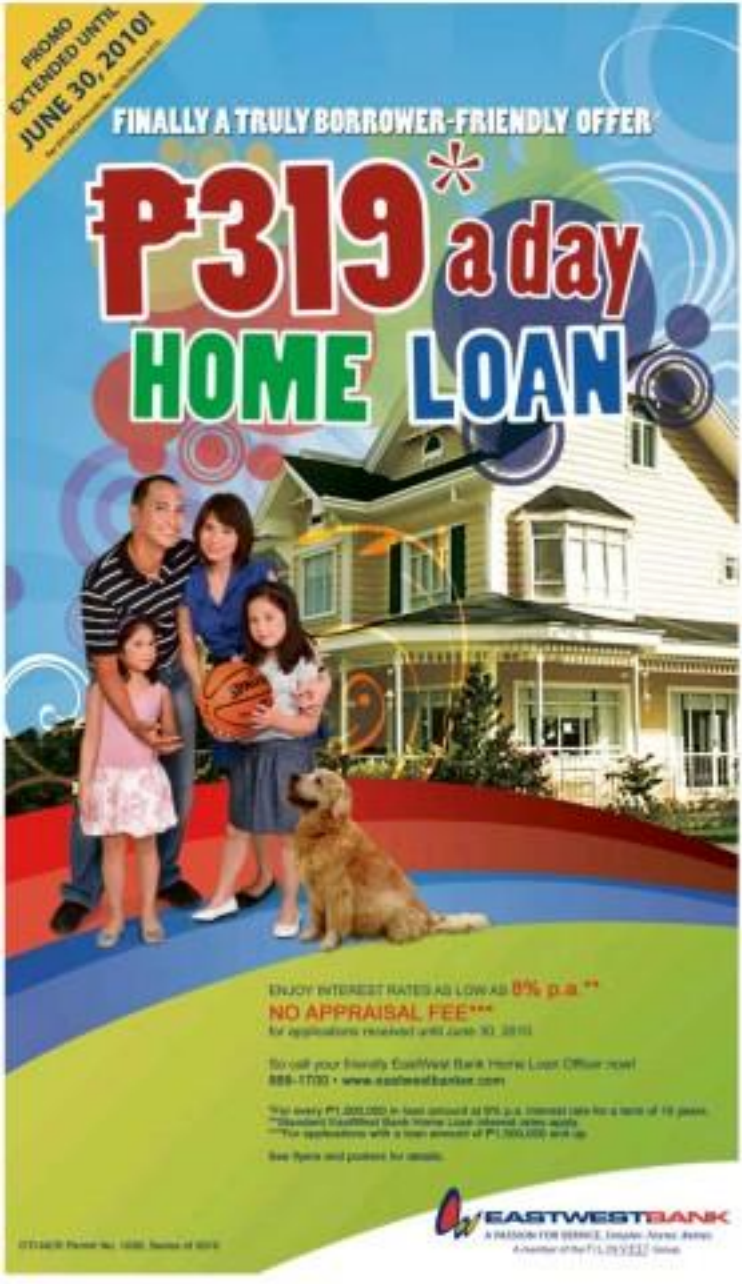
The report, announced in a nationally televised news conference, said intelligence had shown that North Korean submarines were likely in operation near the scene of the sinking, with similar vessels of other neighboring countries all inside their territorial waters.

"The evidence points overwhelmingly to the conclusion that the torpedo was fired by a North Korean submarine," it said.

The latest has plunged already icy relations between the two Koreas deeper into the freezer.

North Korea said the South's conservative government was using the incident for political gain and to further undermine ties between the two Koreas, which have yet to sign a formal peace treaty to end their 1950-53 war.

"Our army and people will promptly react to any 'punishment' and 'retaliation' and to any 'sanctions' inflicting upon our state interests with various forms of tough measures including an all-out war," its official news agency quoted the powerful National Defense Commission as saying in a typically florid statement. Reuters



WORLDBRIEFS

Official: NYC bomb suspect looked at other targets

NEW YORK—While questioned in a New York hotel room, the Times Square bomb suspect revealed he had thoroughly cased skyscrapers and stadiums and asked investigators why he hadn't he been asked to go off, people familiar with the probe said Wednesday. Faisal Shahzad said he considered attacking Grand Central Terminal, Rockefeller Center in midtown Manhattan, the World Financial Center near ground zero and Citicorp Inc.—a Manhattan contractor with an office in his Connecticut hometown—before deciding to detonate a sports utility vehicle rigged with a homemade bomb in Times Square on May 1, a law enforcement official said. AP

In Germany, Google faces probe on data-gathering

HAMBURG—Prosecutors in Hamburg opened a criminal investigation of Google on Wednesday over its collecting of private Internet data from unsecured Wi-Fi networks in Germany. The action in the city-state of Hamburg, where Google's German headquarters is located, could increase pressure on the company to turn over one of the hard drives used in its data-gathering effort, something Google has declined to do thus far. AP/YRO

Scientists blast US response to gulf oil spill

TORONTO—Between the Obama administration and the scientific community over the gulf oil spill are escalating, with prominent oceanographers accusing the government of failing to conduct an adequate scientific analysis of the damage and of allowing BP to obscure the spill's true scope. The scientists assert that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and other agencies have been slow to investigate the scope of the spill and the damage it is causing to the deep ocean. They are especially concerned about getting a better handle on evidence that may be accumulating in large plumes of oil droplets that appear to be spreading beneath the ocean surface. AP/YRO

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Editor Teddyboy S. Melendrez
Associate Editor Francis T. J. Chiles

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Manny relents on prefight tests

PACQUIAO: Whatever is agreed upon, it's OK with me. I trust Mr. Bruno and his teams

By Roy Luarca

THIS TIME, MANNY PACQUIAO IS GIVING Floyd Mayweather Jr little room to argue their proposed weighted limit on Nov. 13.

After thrashing down Mayweather's demand for Olympic-duty testing and counseling their fight set on March 13 conglomerate-elect Pacquiao is now willing to destroy their blood-line issues.

Pacquiao, intent on forging what could be boxing's biggest showdown ever, said he is once reasonable to undergo random drug and other testing 14 days before the fight.

Originally, Pacquiao wanted the tests to be held at least 28 days before the fight, stating blood extraction procedures made him weak.

The 31-year-old Pacquiao said he felt weak when he fought and lost by unanimous decision to Erik Morales the first time they met in March 2005 as a result of the late tests.

Pacquiao stood on his word that Mayweather agreed to first and five hours.

"Whatever is agreed upon, it's OK with me," Pacquiao said in Filipino. "I trust Mr. [Bob] Arum on this matter."

Pacquiao, who's been proclaimed as winner of Mayweather's four congressional districts, flew in from Sen. Isabo City on Tuesday to meet with President-apparent Mayor Aquino.

The seven-division champ shot a Garden connected on Wednesday and visited his commercial building in Quiapo Thursday night with confident Aye "Pilipino" talked.

Pacquiao, who will take a week-nearer on performance at the University of the Philippines, said he's willing to be tested two weeks before fight night provided that the amount of blood to be taken would be minimal.

Proposed to match both fighters by at least $40 million, the Pacquiao-Mayweather fight was almost sealed before a last-minute demand by the American for random testing elevated negotiations.

Because he has intense focus when in training, Pacquiao said he sees no conflict in his desire to a congressman and as a fighter.

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Raging Beermen expect romp over Express

By Mooney B. Castillo

ANTIPOLO—SAN MIGUEL HOOTS FOR A ninth straight win today when the Beermen battle slumping Air21 in the PBA Phonic Commerce elimination at the Ynares Center here.

Game time is 7:30 p.m. with the Beermen expected to get closer to the No. 1 seeding against the Express, who are in the middle of its eight-game losing streak, the longest in the tournament this far.

Peter ce Miner and Brandon Cuffee look home in the 5 p.m. contest with both looking to bounce back from losses the last time out.

Marbil Pessumal and the all-star local corps of the Beermen would prefer not too much for the Express, who took air 87-92 beating from San Miguel in the first round.

Air21 has not won in close to two months, its 113-109 tapping of the Globo Marinos last March 28 standing as the Express' last victory.

San Miguel will be coming off a 104-85 clobbering of the Globo Marinos last Sunday and the bad news for Air21 and coach Yeng Guiao is that San Miguel monster Ildo Tuivaiti is back and will be taking on Guiao's front-line in that game, adding more depth to the Beermen's offense.

Dondon Hontiveros, Danny Ildefonso, Ayo Washington and the rejuvenated Alex Cabagnot will be the other headaches for Guiao.

Wesson Asbrada, Air21's long-time quarterback, is expected to be put to the test tonight and could be in store for the longest offer evening and a seven-month suspension for standing a free-for-all in a Philippine Cup game with Sonny Gilbert Castillo.

Rain or Shine will come into its match with Brando Coffee still licking the wounds of a 73-61 loss to Alaska, which limited the Elasto-Painters scorers to minimal numbers for one of Rain or Shine's worst losses in the tournament.

Tigresses back in Shakey's VL finals

By Jasmine W. Payo

UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS FINALLY GOT PAST UCEUM and of the way to its bid for a third straight championship in the Shakey's V-League Season 7.

Aiza Maizo and Mary Ann Bobar combined for a three attacks in the final set as the Tigresses clinched the last title berth by outlasting the Lady Hunters, 25-19, 21-25, 25-17, 25-16, in their do-or-die semifinal match yesterday at the PICC Pasay V Arena in San Juan.

"We really focused on our offense and the players delivered what we've been doing in practice," said assistant coach Nhel Nunez De Leon, who called the shots for the second straight game.

The Tigresses, seeking a sixth overall crown, avenged a four-set loss to the Lady Hunters in the eliminations against the San Sebastian Lady Stags claiming the berth.

Maizo delivered 14 of her 18 points off spikes, while Bobar added 11 to lead the Tigresses to their semifinals appearance.

It's the fifth championship meeting between the two powerhouse squads, with the Tigresses winning their last encounter in the first conference last year.

Lycoan and Bunos will also battle for third place in another best-of-three series at 2 p.m. Sunday after the league honors the top individual performers.

Malou Ortiz, whose back-to-back service aces sealed the third set for the Tigresses, wound up with 10 markers, the same output of opener player Michelle Cuevillas.

"We were prepared coming into this game, but we had a problem receiving the ball," Lycoan coach Emil Lontoc said in Filipino.

The Tigresses pulled away to 14-9 from a close 10-9 lead behind Bobar and Maizo in the fourth set.

A modest UST defense stretched the gap to 20-14 then to 22-15.

Lycoan, rallying behind their recently departed team manager Tonia Gonzales, pulled off an emotional 30-32, 25-15, 25-20, 25-23, 15-10 upset over UST in the opener last Sunday.

But the Tigresses recovered their dominating form two days later in Game 2 with a straight set 25-18, 25-23, 25-22 triumph.

San Sebastian claimed the first championship berth after sweeping season 2-0, in their own semifinal encounter last Tuesday.

The Lady Stags claimed the opener, 25-21, 25-04, 25-18, before barging the Lady Eagles' flightback, 21-25, 25-22, 25-25, 25-21, 15-12, in Game 2. With reports from Overseer Melissa Rodjan and Freelancer Michelle Villanueva, Contributors

LYCEUM'S Gladdie Cruz (right) eyes the ball as Angie Tabaquero of Santo Tomas finishes a drop shot in set one of today's game. ARNOLD ALMACEN

FilOil caging: Archers resume bid versus Altas

By Jasmine W. Payo

LA SALLE RETURNS on action today after a two-week reprieve resuming against a Perpetual Help squad entering off a break-through win in the PBL Group V First Five Pre-Season tournament Cup.

The Archers, who entered from Chicago four days ago, 10-14 shake off the jetlag in their bid for a fourth win against the Altas at 3 p.m. at the FilOil Flying V Arena in San Juan.

Jun Johnston, making re-emergence as coach for a quarter-final berth, clashes with Adamson at 5 p.m.

The Archers, with a 3-1 record in Group A before losing to the Falcons in the finale, missed the Chicago camp of renowned NBA mentor Tim Grover.

But Stagedoor coach then Aldrgate thinks the Altas just got a boost of confidence following a 16-57 upset of the Letran Knights last Wednesday.

"The victory over Letran] wouldn't be true big if we were from the Final Four last year, but we didn't," said Aldrgate. "We were the last players."

Arnold Dungganon unloaded 16 points while Ilom Hoyre nailed the game-clinching three-point to lift the Altas past the Knights, for their first win in four games.

Rhoda Arenas and De La Salle-Zobel star signatory Jose de la Paz-Jamison Jr. highlighted the Lady Archers' bowling by Mighty Bond Eyewear Total Phils. Corp., San Mateo Ground Team, scor, FROM Gas Co., Phiplus 5 and Hatsudousha.

The Eagles battle the Stallions 1 Bulldogs at 11 a.m., while the Altas archers clash with the Emilio Aguinaldo Brigadiers at 1 p.m.

Joshua Salak gave the undefeated Archers along with Johnston Bernard and Simon Atkins.

The Chiefs, remaining second with a 4-1 slate in Group B, are expected to lean on Calvin Abueva, Pinoy Hayumado and sophomore center Ian Sargeberg.

Abueva, a 6-foot-3 power forward, leads the individual statistical race after averaging 16 points and 11 rebounds.

The Bolts, rising a 4-2 record in Group B, are coming off a 68-52 triumph over the St. Benilde Blazers. *With a report from Overseer Melissa Rodjan*

Imported, local warbirds clash today in Pasay Global Slasher

THE COUNTRY'S BEST BREEDERS will field their top gamefowls against their peers' imported fighters when the grand championship stage of the Global Slasher Cock International Derby fires off today at the Pasay City Cockpit.

Among the derby's most eagerly awaited matchups is the clash between top cockers Patrick Antonio and Rodolfo Rivera.

Antonio's "It and It" entry is made up of imported Jet-bradred fowls from California while Pinoy's "LIC International June 9, 12, 14 and 26" entry fields Gonzales silver (from Hawaii) gamefowls.

Pinoy's two entries have scored three wins each while Antonio's fighters have also remained unbeaten going into today's Lo-ook finals.

The fifteen entry of boxing superstar Manny Pacquiao will be pitted against the "Double A-BC" entry of Charlie "Strong" Ang and "SEA Mold Champagne" of Ramon Gonzales Jr./Vicente.

Other top contenders include "Berong Mendoza" of Ramon Montemayor, "Navigator" of Mayor Jun Pangindian, "Iron Fortuna" of Bob Ocenas and "Tres-Arabres III-Ac" of Eddie Ajanel.

MARLON Stockinger (second from left) shares the podium with winner Tamas Pal Kiss (third from left), second placer Harry Tinchenll (right) and third runner-up Nick Tiffeli.

UK podium finish for Pinoy

FILIPINO-SWISS CHAMPS ROGER MARLON Stockinger added his second podium finish in Peyhan Extremely when he finished third in the second Michelin X-treme Rewind UK Championship in Buckinghum.

Stockinger, a member of the Airsh Grand Prix racing team, followed home teammate and race winner Tamas Pal Kiss and Harry Tinchenll, who started from pole position.

The 19-year-old son of racing enthusiast and Manila-based businessman Tino Stockinger earned past yesterday third-placer finish. Nick Tiffeli in the eighth lap and Tinchell as Tiffeli tried to get past Stockinger for second place after the eighth but engine problem eventually forced him to retire.

Stockinger first scored a podium finish in the 2009 UK Pitbike Grand Prix of Wales.

Pal Kiss' second victory in three races boosted him on top in the Pomeade Rewind series.

Stockinger's superb start in the second round, Stockinger also held third spot until throttle problems thrusted the kid in the fourth lap.

Airsh GP team principal Ferrol Rivas was delighted with the outcome.

"Marlon rode outstanding and this feeds us fill for the remaining races," Thacle said.

Steve Alva, Contributor

Asean titlist Literatus cops Nat'l U-14 plum

By Ray Luarca

BAGUIO CITY—HOMEGROWN sensation Jacob Literatus swept his last two matches to emerge as the best 14-and-under category in the 2010 National Age Group Chess Championships at the SSC-CCSHS Athletic Bowl Wednesday.

The 13-year-old Literatus, grad medalist in last year's ASEAN Age Group 13-under rapid tournament, outscored Jayson Rigay and Jeffrey Espinosa in separate Swiss-System finals with 8.0 points in the nine-round tournament. Kindly organized by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines and the city government of Baguio.

Quezon City's Vhon Angelo Medina took second runner-up honors after second with 7.5 points, while Cebu's Allan Paras answered top seed John Eric Bancaya to finish third with 6.5.

In the girls' 14-under division, Michelle Vicor of Columbia, Laguna, defeated Janelle Mae Frayna of Bicol to the championship after both emerged with 8.5 points each.

Elvino Tagaro of Davao City placed third with 7.0 points, topping Asian Age Group silver medalist Honeylyn Ay Acedo and Sun Joe Cecilia.

Singapore Challenger titlist Julius Deoma, a member of the GAP champion Par Elementary II, crowned Lovely Bagay to top the girls' 10-under category with 7.0 points. Davao's Olympian Charity Lariel Bendero trailed Bonn Jessica to place second with 6.5.

Mikki Christopher Bardo of La Salle-Bacolod took third with 4.5 points despite dropping his final match against Lovelyn Dellera.

In the boys 10-under division, Rafaelito Salcedo III finished in a three-way tie for top spot with 6th finals Rapsura and Elliot Joseph Tarquez with 7.0 points, but clinched the title by higher tiebreak score.

In the boys 16-under, Ace Miguel won his final round match against Mitchi Sagcala to emerge champion with seven points.

Ace Aubrey Fonda joined the girls' 16-under with 7.5 points while Emmanuel Revita topped the girls 12-under with 6.0.

The other results: Boys 16-under: Jose Ignacio Nebrida (Ateneo) def. Jeremy Ong (Ateneo); Girls 16-under: Jessa Mae Ignacio (Ateneo) def. Jessica Ann Bendal, Miguel Martinez (girls' frames).

SMART Gilas' Ballesteros, Reavson and Aguilar (from left) quarry pair of their kids at Manuel Pluncido Elementary School in evacuation center. The public school is Pasay is a beneficiary of Rockwell-Ayala Foundation's educational and feeding programs for underprivileged kids.

Smart Gilas tests progress at Champs Cup

By Jess Navarro

THE SMART GILAS-PILIPINAS NATIONAL squad left for the Fiba Asia Champions Cup in Qatar yesterday eager to show the progress of its well-heralded and demystified campaign under the Lithuania-Bankrolled ng Pilipinas.

National coach Rubio Tenorio and Smart Gilas is stressing for an iron share a semifinal slot in the tournament which will also serve as a testing ground for Serbian import Wilkes Vuleta, as a medium for international play.

"It's going to be tough, but we want to accomplish our goals when we play in the Champions Cup," said Tenorio before the team's departure for Doha, where the fifty 22-to-10 Asian finals Emerging nations will be held.

Smart Gilas threw a heat in tournament's opener and will face host Qatar's Al Kippan on Sunday to kick off its nine-day schedule. The SF-fifth-blow Dashbed Bilis in Atlanta last year.

Tenorio also announced the 12-man lineup for the Champions Cup with Chris Lutz and Ray Parraveno taking over as replacements for the injured Marc Cuaderno and JV Casserling.

The other team members are Olivier Shilla, co-Captain Mark Barroca, Greg Slaughter, Mac Baraquel, James Ballesteros, Dylan Ababou, Japeth Aguilar, RJ Jazul, Aldrech Ramos and Taulava.

Against Qatar, Smart Gilas gets to play against Reavson 7-4 center Michael Eley as it enters UCLA standard rules to date contradiction prospect for the Philippine team.

Except for Smart Gilas, all the teams will be fielding two imports.

Eley, a college teammate of Orlando Magic's Jameer Nelson and Cleveland Cavaliers' Delonte West, provided Smart Gilas many troubles in practice last month. But he revealed fly in Manila to try out for the team that went to China unsuccessful unknown reasons.

Bata, Amang bounce back in US Open 10-ball event

FILIPINO LEGENDS EFREN "BATA" REYES and compatriot Amang Dorina headed separate's bracket lines Thursday (Manila time) to get back on track in the $60,000 United States Open 10-Ball championship at the Riviera Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas.

REYES

PARICK

Reyes, who won the 1999 World 9-Ball title in Cardiff, Wales, ripped American James Bandia, 9-5, while Parico, another charismatic old-timer, topped another home bet in Rene Bonnigens, 9-7.

The win erased the stigma of a 6-9 loss to Roberto Gomez in the second round on Wednesday as Reyes earned a clash with American veteran Johnny Archer, a 9-4 winner over Jayson Goodwin.

Parico, who lost by default to Sarah Rosario, will now face John Schmidt in an effort to stay alive. Schmidt was relegated to the bracket after losing a full-full game to another Filipino, Edwin Mostal, also Wednesday.

The champion here gets home with $20,000 (around P900,000), while second place will be worth $12,500.

Thirty-second action in the winner's bracket resumes Friday with Al Lapera slugging it out with Mike Zenhauser; Lee Vleet Cotton squaring off with Francis Cuevas; Dennis Orcollo looking home with Stan Nacongeau; Ronnie Alcano tangling with Thomas Engert; Warren Kiamco battling Raff Rosario; and Dennis Djengo Rustomoore seeing it up with Mostal.

Double-rematch set for the feature player in the Philippine contingent, dropping just seven frames in his first two matches—against Raj Hundal of India and John Morra of Canada.

He won the Pony Poker 8-ball championship last week by losing just a total of 12 frames from the quarterfinals all the way to the title match. —Manong R. Castillo

JUVIC Pagunsan: First title in eight this year.

Juvic leads ace-shooting Sinfuego by 1

By Manong R. Castillo

SILANG, CAVITE—STORMING FOR A FIRST win this year, Juvic Pagunsan fired a 3-under-par 69 yesterday to seize a one-stroke lead over ace-seeker Richard Sinfuego going into the final 18 holes of the P250,000 Victoria Classic.

The 31-year-old former Asian Tour Rookie of the Year was steadiest on a day when the course befuddled the crack field, garnering down a total of six birdies at the Canlubang course layout for a 36-hole 139 total.

Sinfuego shot his first birdie-five on a par-4 with a 3-iron on the 328-yard eighth hole but could only finish with a 71 and a 140 total.

He was four over on the back nine where he started and needed a 25 on the fairs with the help of the ace he scored in the company of Arnold Villacencio and Korean amateur Kim Jun-ok.

Undaunted, Sinfuego, whose superb 68 on Wednesday installed him as tournament leader for the first time in a two-year career, wrestled with a shaky patch that left him with a 74 for 142.

"I still have a chance despite being three down as long as my putts fall," Sinfuego said the happiness in Filipinos. "I didn't have a putt that dropped today. My only battle was from greens distance. I had the wrong read every time."

Tied with Sinfuego were Gene Nombre and veteran Boy Pagtakhan, who shot 71s.

Pagunsan, who won two legs in this circuit last year with the last coming in December in his home course in Canlubang, normally hit his one shot on No. 7 out of bounds but recovered well enough to salvage one of his three bogeys for the day.

Oldtimer Efren Tolentino, also on a Spc/Golf outfit, fired a 74 that moved him to the company of Orlan Bernard, Marc Pacay and Antonio Lascuna, who all matched par at 142.

Danny Zamora, who used off-par a stroke off Dungca, retrieved a 75 as he also failed to master the greens he is so familiar with, having played under the banner of the club in his earlier years as a pro.

He was at 144 together with Ezra Dapilo, who shot a 72 and Weibe Ramos, who re-mitted a 73.

The leading scores
Juvic Pagunsan 71-69—140; Richard Sinfuego 68-71—139; Gene Nombre 71-69—140; Boy Pagtakhan 71-69—140; Efren Tolentino 70-74—144; Danny Zamora 69-75—144; Ezra Dapilo 72-72—144; Weibe Ramos 73-73—146; Orlan Bernard 71-75—146; Marc Pacay 71-75—146; Antonio Lascuna 71-75—146; Jun Bautista 73-74—147; Jeff Fabian 73-74—147; Jeff Fabian 73-74—147; Jeff Fabian

SPORTS

Landis admits using performance-enhancing drugs

NEW YORK—DISGRACED TWO-TIME TOUR DE FRANCE WINNER FLOYD LANDIS has sent e-mails to cycling officials and sponsors admitting to the use of performance-enhancing drugs, the Wall Street Journal reported on Thursday. "I used for two or my concussion. "The 30-year-old said, admitting using performance-enhancing drugs for a total of his career, including during the 2006 Tour de France, which he won but was stripped of after failing a drug test. /Reuters

Padres end Dodgers winning streak

LOS ANGELES—ADRIAN GONZALEZ HOMERED AND HAD A CAREER-HIGH six RBIs as the San Diego Padres beat Los Angeles, 9-5, in the National League on Wednesday, ending an eight-game winning streak. Will Venable had four hits including a triple and two doubles for the SL West-leading Padres. In St. Louis, Hanley Ramirez homered for the Marlins' lineup with three hits as Florida downed St. Louis, 5-1. AP

Lakers sink Suns, take 2-0 West lead

LOS ANGELES—THE LOS ANGELES LAkers are halfway to another NBA finals series after a 124-113 victory over the Phoenix Suns on Wednesday (pm) that's a 2-0 lead in the Western Conference finals.

Pau Gasol scored 34 of his 29 points in the fourth quarter, and Kobe Bryant had 32 points and 12 assists as the Lakers evened away in the final minutes.

Ron Artest scored 18 points for Los Angeles, which won its eighth straight playoff game and moved within striking distance of a rematching NBA finals showdown with the Boston Celtics, who lead Orlando 2-0 in the East. For the second straight game, the Lakers rallied down from the Staples Center crowd in the third minutes: "We must Rockets?"

The Lakers' sustained sufferers at home in the postseason despite a much-improved effort from the Suns, who lost the opener by 21 points. Phoenix led it at 91-90 heading to the final period, but Gasol and Bryant flawlessly led the Lakers to another high-scoring victory.

"We've been able to play both styles of basketball," Los Angeles coach Phil Jackson said. "We like to control the pace, but we

LAKERS' Pau Gasol dunks the ball on route to a game-high 29 points. AP

final comfortable if it's an uncomfortable."

The Lakers eventually seem to be unveiling the Suns' exit from the playoffs after hitting better than 57 percent of their shots and scoring a low dropping 252 points in the first two games.

Game 3 is Sunday in Phoenix. But unless the Suns figure out a way to clog Los Angeles' versatile, potent offense, the Lakers and Celtics could be just a few days away from another chapter in their storied rivalry.

NBA's to Big 12
Lakers over PHX
6:30 p.m.—Game 3 Lakers @ Suns, Lakers lead 2

"We don't slow them down," Phoenix coach Alvin Gentry said. "We played well offensively, but every time we tried to make an adjustment to slow them down offensively, they would go somewhere else. There's a good reason they're the world champs, but we'll keep trying."

Los Angeles has lost only one loss of seven playoff series in franchise history after taking a 2-0 lead, winning five-of-six. The 15-time champions haven't won eight straight games in the same postseason since their Lakers run from the 1999 playoffs.

Jason Richardson scored 27 points for Phoenix, and Steve Nash had 21 points and 13 assists. AP

Nets can be champs next year, Russian owner says

NEW YORK—RUSSIAN BILLIONAIRE Mikhail Prokhorov has a five-year plan for turning the New Jersey Nets into champions, but the NBA's first foreign owner said he was not ready to reveal his strategy.

"If I told you, I would have to kill you," the new owner of the NBA's worst team joking told reporters on Wednesday.

The Nets, coming off their worst season at 12-70, came up losers again on Tuesday night when their chose the third pick in next month's NBA draft despite having the best odds in the weighted lottery.

The 45-year-old, 6-foot-7 Prokhorov, a basketball player in his youth, said they would still get a good player in the draft and the lottery maneuvers would not lead him to change his timetable.

"How do we race we build a championship team? If everything goes as planned, I expect us to be in the playoffs next season and win a championship in one-two years maximum, and maximum in five years," he said.

Prokhorov said the team would pursue free agents but would not comment specifically on the biggest prize of the upcoming crop—Cleveland MVP LeBron James, who's contract with the Cavaliers has not been yet expired. Reuters

Sharapova reaches q'finals; Another early exit for Soderling

STRASBOURG, FRANCE—TOP-SEEDED Maria Sharapova cruised into the quarterfinals of the Strasbourg International with a 6-2, 6-0 win over Bulgarian qualifier Dia Evtimova on Wednesday.

Sharapova, given a wild-card entry after two months out with a right elbow injury, didn't have a single break point to claim her second victory on clay this year.

In Nice, Olivier Rochus of Belgium rallied to beat top-seeded Robin Soderling, 2-6, 6-4, 6-4, and reach the quarterfinals of the Open de Nice.

Despite serving up 23 aces, Soderling, who lost to Roger Federer in last year's French Open final, was broken three times. It was the world No. 7's third consecutive defeat after his third-round exit in Rome and an opening-round loss in Madrid last week.

"I served much better today and returned better, too," Sharapova said. "I'm happy to get the win today against a player I don't know."

SHARAPOVA

Sharapova lost in the first round at Madrid last week.

She now faces Julia Georges of Germany, who defeated third-seeded Ivo Karlovic of Austria 6-3, 7-6 (6).

Vesna Dolonc of the United States broke local hope Alicia Cornet five times and won 6-3, 6-2. AP

So eyes 3rd 'Battle of GMs' plum

TWO-TIME CHAMPION JOE BRADLEY IO opens his bid for an unprecedented third straight title when the "Battle of GMs" chess championship gets underway on May 28 at the Diamond Hotel in Tagaytay City.

So, who seized the first two staging of the event in Manila in 2008 and Dipilar City last year, is overwhelming favorite anew in the competition organized by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP), headed by chair/president Prospero "Butch" Pichay, in cooperation with the Tagaytay City government, led by newly re-elected Mayor Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino.

GM Rogelio Antonio Jr., after finished runner-up to So last year, and Darwin Laylo are also expected to figure prominently in the title race, along with two other GMs—John Paul Gomez and Oliver Barbosa.

"I expect So to continue to play well and defend his title, but Antonio, Layla and the rest of the participants are all capable of pulling off some surprises," said Pichay.

Tolentino, for his part, said Tagaytay and its chess-loving residents are happy for the chance to host the country's top players.

"We have hosted several major chess tournament in the past, including the chess competition in the 2005 SEA Games, but this is the first time that the finals of GMs will be held here," said Tolentino, who the PCDP secretary general.

The champion will take home P200,000.

GMs Eugene Torre, Mark Paragua, Nelson Mariano and Buenaventura "Bong" Villamayor are logged all due to other commitments.

Lhuillier tennis on May 23-30

THE COUNTRY'S TOP PLAYERS WILL bring to take on May 23 to 30 to the Lhuillier Tennis Center at the Rustan Tennis Club. Matches will be played on May 23 and 24 under the round-robin at on May 26 for singles and May 28 for doubles.

"We are bringing in specialists for tennis in the country and to improve local tennis, we can go against the Filipinos in international competitions," said PVJ Lhuillier president and CEO Jose Vidal Lhuillier.

Youngster contact tournament referee Roy Cabos at 8826-3750/60.

VETERAN runner Crevenzano Sabal's worthy cover of *front RUNNER* magazine's June issue. Also featured are recent SP stolen and world marathon record holder Haile Gebrselassie of Ethiopia and Malaysia's pacey-fee Rep. Walter Ang.

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Editor Raul D. Maralit • Assistant Editor Carole S. Montano

BUSINESS

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Gov't posts April budget surplus of P2.6B

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT REGISTERED A BUDGET surplus of P2.6 billion in April, aided by the increase in tax payments during the month and the improving collection performance of the state's two key revenue earners.

However, the surplus for the month was lower than the P7.9 billion posted in the same month last year.

Despite the April fiscal performance, the budget gap in the first four months of the year widened by 16 percent to P172.4 billion from P111.5 billion a year ago.

The bigger deficit in January to April meant the target of limiting the full-year gap to only P335 billion, lower than last year's P399 billion, appear more difficult to meet.

"While we are encouraged by the continued strong performance of our revenue-generating agencies' Bureau of Internal Revenue and Bureau of Customs, we still need to work harder to keep up on track with our fiscal program and leave the next administration with a manageable budgetary position," Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said.

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As of 5 p.m., May 30, 2013

Businessmen turn bullish amid economic upturn

BSP survey also shows bright Q3 prospects

By Michelle V. Reyes

BUSINESSMEN IN THE COUNTRY HAVE become even more bullish about their economic outlook amid the economy in general, with the latest confidence index rising further to reflect the consensus of a recovery that is now from last year's slowdown.

The confidence index of businessmen rose to +43.9 percent, a new two-year high, according to results of the thought-bearer up Filipinos' Business Expectations Survey for the second quarter of the year, conducted from April to the first week of May.

This was an improvement from the +39.1 percent registered in the previous survey held in January and a reversal from the -2.6 percent for the second quarter of 2009.

The confidence index is computed as the percentage of firms that answered in the affirmative, less the percentage of firms that answered in the negative with respect to their sentiment on their income prospects and economic outlook.

"The improved business outlook is consistent with the expected broad-based, solid economic growth this year which draws support from the recovery in export revenues, excessive inflation, steady growth of overseas Filipinos' remittances and stable peso," Romulo Virola, director of the Department of Economic Statistics at the central bank, said in a press briefing yesterday.

Business sentiment in 2009 fell to negative territory because of the impact of the global economic turmoil on the Philippines.

Following the height of the crisis last year, however, the world economy is expected to gradually recover this year. The Philippines will benefit in terms of increased demand for its products and an accelerated rise in remittances from Filipinos working overseas, Usurious said.

BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said the improved business sentiment was seen across all reserved sectors.

The confidence index for the industry sector improved to +46.1 percent from -7.6 percent as the latest posted the previous year. The index for the construction sector rose to +46.9 percent from +1 percent.

The confidence index for the wholesale and retail trade sector increased to +40.9 percent from -3.1 percent, while that for the services sector improved to +49.0 percent from +1 percent.

The survey also showed that respondents firms expect the total quarter of the year to further improve to +60.7 percent from the second quarter.

The "next quarter" confidence index must on a positive territory, at +46.2 percent. The rate is lower than the 52.6 percent registered in the previous quarter, but much higher than the +13.7 percent in the same period a year ago.

Monetary officials said expectations that inflation will be accelerated... although at a moderate degree—is helping fuel optimism of investors. A low inflation environment is favorable for businessmen as this helps temper the cost of raw materials and other inputs for their operations.

PLDT CHAIR Manuel Pangilinan looks at his image during the launch of PLDT-SMC Hotline "Bossing Mo!" campaign at the company's Makati headquarters. He was named "ultimate bossing" from among a field that included Regal Films's Mother Lily Monteverde, Inland Sportswear's Jay Aldaguer, Go Negosyo's Joey Concepcion, Bayan Mobile Inc.'s Lee Rivera, Pasuc's Malaluan Bayocca, Gandy Cruz...and Herdz Park's Raphael and Janet Lim, among others.

PetroEnergy hikes oil production as wells in Gabon go onstream

By Amy R. Roces

PUBLICLY LISTED PETROENERGY RESOURCES Corp. yesterday said new zone oil production wells have been successfully put on stream in Gabon, West Africa, increasing daily production by over 40 percent.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, PetroEnergy said three wells were covered by the Etame Main Petroleum Service Contract (PSC), in which the company holds a 2.525-percent working interest.

The Etame field is also the company's main source of revenue, through its share in the oil production.

"The completion of the drilling of Etame 4H and work over of Etame 3H have increased oil production to 2,629 barrels of oil per day (bopd) from the average production of 17,000 bopd as of April 2010," the company reported.

Prospections are now underway for the drilling of an exploration well, 3E Etame #5, which, if successful, will open up zones of hitherto undrilled reservoirs, Petroenergy added.

According to Petroenergy, two new exploration prospects—Omongwa and HV Etame—may also be drilled in 2010. The objectives of the drillings are to raise the production level to 30,000 bopd and to find additional oil reserves that are within reach of the current production facilities.

The company, also expected to have additional expenditures in oil exploration in Gabon. The company's revenue from the Etame and Avouma and Ebouri fields will finance said capital expenditures, Petroenergy said.

In the Philippines, PetroEnergy holds participating interests in three service contracts namely: SC 6A or the Octon Malajon Block 10-12/Cadlao Block, SC 14C1 or the Galoc Block and SC 14C2 or the West Linapacan 14-15/Tara Block, all located in offshore Palawan. SC 47 (2 portions) is offshore Mindoro; and SC 51 (4th 2 portions) is in Sulu Visayan Sea.

'Maharlika' bourse plan backed

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE SOUTH EAST ASIAN EXCHANGES (SEAX), the Philippine Stock Exchange's plan to create a separate board for companies that voluntarily subscribe to high corporate governance standards.

Jesus Ambassador Stephen Lim embraced the PSE's plan to create the "

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NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and Address of Company/Employer	Nature of Foreign National's Citizenship	Position
DH INTERNATIONAL, INC. - 2320 K-bel Tower Tektite Bldg., Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Hee Kee Lee (Korea)	Sales Manager
SUNMAX TECHNOLOGY CORPORATION - 742 Reunion Tektite St. San Miguel, Manila	Jacko Wu (Taiwan)	Branch Manager
SUNMAX TECHNOLOGY CORPORATION - 742 Reunion Tektite St. San Miguel, Manila	Yanmeng Yang (China)	Branch Operation Manager
MANILA ROOT REFLEXOLOGY INC. - 2nd Floor Pedro Hotel, Andrews St. cor. Makati St., Makati, Manila	Xiangling Gao (China)	Consultant
CHEMLY ENCOMMAGNIFIERS' (PHILS.) CORPORATION - 2nd Floor Pedro Hotel, Andrews St. cor. Makati St., Makati, Manila	Katherine Jean Pfeiffer (Britain)	Vice President - Marketing
SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS (PHILIPPINES) CORPORATION - 6/F Manila Pavilion Hotel, United Nations Ave. cor. Concepcion, Ermita, Manila	Joon Hoon Choeon (Korea)	Head Asian Product Specialist
SRI HAI CORPORATION - Suite 1002-B Antel Corporate Center, 105 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Hyoung Sik Jung (Korea)	Marketing Manager
ZMIC (MANILA) CORPORATION - 16/F Rufino Pacific Tower, 6787 Ayala Ave., Makati, Manila	Jiantao Tuo (Myanmar)	Managing Director
ASSOCIATION OF CHEMED-FLEXING SCHOOLS IN THE PHILIPPINES, INC. / PHILIPPINE ACADEMY OF SAKITA, INC. - 4/F Alliance Bldg., 815 Quintin Paredes St., Binondo, Manila	Li Hsiang Ho (Taiwan)	Chinese Language Teacher
ASSOCIATION OF CHEMED-FLEXING SCHOOLS IN THE PHILIPPINES, INC. / PHILIPPINE ACADEMY OF SAKITA, INC. - 4/F Alliance Bldg., 815 Quintin Paredes St., Binondo, Manila	Chia-Hsiang Chang (Taiwan)	Assistant Cook
ASSOCIATION OF CHEMED-FLEXING SCHOOLS IN THE PHILIPPINES, INC. / PHILIPPINE ACADEMY OF SAKITA, INC. - 4/F Alliance Bldg., 815 Quintin Paredes St., Binondo, Manila	Ya-Chin Sun (Taiwan)	Chinese Language Teacher
ASSOCIATION OF CHEMED-FLEXING SCHOOLS IN THE PHILIPPINES, PHILIPPINE ACADEMY OF SAKITA, INC. - 4/F Alliance Bldg., 815 Quintin Paredes St., Binondo, Manila	Ming-Wei Lien (Taiwan)	Chinese Language Teacher
ASSOCIATION OF CHEMED-FLEXING SCHOOLS IN THE PHILIPPINES, PHILIPPINE ACADEMY OF SAKITA, INC. - 4/F Alliance Bldg., 815 Quintin Paredes St., Binondo, Manila	Pedro Hsiao-Chen (Taiwan)	Chinese Language Teacher
FLOOR OWNERS, INC. - PHILIPPINES - 1/F Asian Star Building, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Joseph Patrick Mac Sweeney (Australia)	Consultant, Control System
MAKATI PRIVATE ENGLISH INC. - 2/F Globe Telecom Tower 1, Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City	Jae Suk Lee (Korea)	Manager
ZTE PHILIPPINES, INC. - 26/F Nelson Hospedoza Tan, 6815 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Hongjie Liu (China)	Field Sales Manager
RESOLUTE CENTRES INC. - 2807 Manila 2, The Enterprise Center, 6766 Ayala Ave. cor. Paseo de Roxas Ave., Makati City	Puneet Bakhi (India)	Sales Consultant - IBD
ASIA EUROPE INTERNATIONAL HOLDINGS & DEV'T CORP. - 28 B.G. Reyes Ave., San Miguel, Pasig City	Yong Li (China)	Operation Manager
MARKET ONE GLOBAL, INC. - Unit 703 Makati Executive Tower, 144 Valero St., Makati City	Maurice Veronica Hayes (Australia)	General Operation Manager
TAIFENG CORPORATION - 39, 31 Andres St. cor. Leveriza St., Malate, Manila	Xiaoyan Yang (China)	Chef Cook
TAIFENG HONGSHENG DIMSUM FOOD CORPORATION - 4133-235, 2nd Level, SM Mall of Asia, Pasay City	Sun Lei Li (China)	Chef Cook
GURUDEEP TRADING CORP. - Unit 1, 15 Dubai Grande Tower, Paseo de Roxas cor. Makati Ave., Makati City	Kirpal Singh (India)	Sales Representative
TAIFENG HONGSHENG DIMSUM FOOD CORPORATION - 4133-235, 2nd Level, SM Mall of Asia, Pasay City	Lanxi Ying-Hong (China)	Chef Cook
QUANTELEC PHILIPPINES INC. - 9/F United Nations Tower, Rizal Park, Manila, Remedios Cor. Orosa St., Ermita, Manila	Vladimir Semenov Tyan Shanskiy (Russia)	Manager, Global Operations
ZTE PHILIPPINES, INC. - 26/F Nelson Hospedoza Tan, 6815 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Xiaoyu Yuan (China)	Technical Support Specialist
MAHN-WEISS TRADING INC. - 22 Behind Mt. Mt.Zion Commercial Square, Commander St., Malate, Manila	Jeremiah Mann (Korea)	Manager

If you have any information/comment to the above-mentioned application/s please communicate with this Regional Director.

RAYMUNDO E. ASINAS JR.
Regional Director

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3 firms keen on Unified Leyte deal

Pacifica, Aboitiz Power, EDC to bid for IPPA contract

By Jerry R. Barca

THREE PUBLICLY LISTED COMPANIES have expressed interest in bidding for the management of the government's sole interest in the 700-megawatt (MW) Unified Leyte Geothermal Power Complex in Tongonan.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Pacifica Inc. said it had submitted its Expression of Interest and Undertaking Agreement Copy in letter of interest in participating in the bidding.

The move, according to Pacifica, means its firm intention to expand business opportunities in its power-related activities.

Aboitiz Power Corp. president and CEO Eduardo J. Aboitiz also said in a recent briefing that the company would bid for the independent power producer administrator (IPPA) contract for Unified Leyte. "We either have negotiated already or are in the process of negotiating for the Unified Leyte bid," Aboitiz said.

In a separate text message to the business, Energy Development Corp. president and COO Richard B. Tantoco confirmed that Leyte had company's bid for the same contract.

EDC is the owner of the steam plants, which include the 125-MW Upper Mahiao, 232-MW Mahanagdong, 180-MW Mahanagdong, and 51-MW optimization plants.

On Monday, PSALM formally opened to investors the privatization process for the IPPA of Unified Leyte. Interested parties have until May 24 to submit their letters of intention, as pre-bid conference was slated for June 28 while the submission of bids was scheduled for July 30.

Under Republic Act No. 9136, or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001, the transfer of the management and dispatch control from TPC prevents the sale of the egy sargent of power plants under contract with Napocor to IPPAs are one of the preconditions for the implementation of retail competition and open access.

Teleperformance puts up HQ for Asia in RP

GLOBAL CALL CENTER TELEPERFORMANCE is setting up its Asian regional headquarters in the 20-story Alphaland Southgate Tower of the corner of Makati and Don Chino Roces Avenue in Makati.

The building is the first office avenue of several contact phone Alphaland Corp., a joint venture between the group of former Trade Minister Roberto "Robbie" Ongpin and British Land subsidiary Hondaleigh.

In a statement, Alphaland Corp. said it had merged other premium buildings in the Global City, Makati and Ortigas business districts to lure the Teleperformance company.

"It was the ideal setting for our regional office primarily due to its location and direct access to the MRT-3 and Daru Bintu, managing director of TP Philippines.

In the Philippines, Teleperformance has 17,000 work stations in six contact centers in Manila and Bacolod City. Devin C. Bonnin

Electronic corporate voting

THE JURY IS STILL OUT ON WHETHER the recent automated elections are a boon or bane for the country.

For the first time in our political history, the voters' choices were counted and filed entirely computerized electronically by the vote-counting machine with the assistance of human intervention.

Whether Commission, or at the technically savvy prefer to call it, cyberspace, has ushered in an electoral system.

After May 10, the manual counting, counting and tallying of votes has become history. Only corrupt politicians, power brokers and election officials would want to go back to that system.

Unknown to many, electronic transmission of votes is already practiced in certain areas of corporate activity in our country.

Under the Corporation Code, "voting by mail or other similar means by non-stock corporations may be authorized by the bylaws of a non-stock corporation with the approval of the majority of the members unless otherwise prescribed by the Securities and Exchange Commission."

Obviously, when the Code was enacted in 1980, electronic transmission, e-mail, text messaging, the Internet and other modern communications gadgets were beyond the technology of contemplation when they added the phrase "other similar means."

Interpretation

Not three years ago, or even one year ago, the means of written communication, then, were postage mail, telegrams, and personal delivery.

Except for short mail, those communication tools have been reduced to museum pieces or part of reminiscences about the good old days.

The assembly men (that was the name of the members of the legislature) took the initiative and the Comelec responsible for the inclusion of their catch-all phrase in the law should be commended for his unerring foresight.

With the advances in telecommunications in mind, the SEC has interpreted that provision to include the use of electronic mail in the casting of votes in meetings of non-stock corporations.

To be able to use that mechanism, however, it is essential that the by-laws of the non-stock corporation expressly allow its members to vote by mail or other similar means.

Absent that provision, the members have to be physically present or represented by proxies in the meeting if they want their votes to be counted on any matter presented to them for their approval.

The liberality in voting procedures for non-stock corporations is justified by the purposes for which they are organized and the traditional closeness of their membership.

Practical

Non-stock corporations are not meant to be money-making ventures for their members.

They are supposed to render religious, educational, cultural or other socially-oriented services, without any expectation of remuneration, to the less privileged members of our society.

Usually, these members are numerous and come from different places, depending on the areas where they choose to establish their residence activities.

They may not have the financial means to personally attend the regular or special meetings at their principal office and use their votes as corporate issues that require their consent, and have to go back to their stations.

The time and money they would spend attending the meetings could be better used to accomplish the objectives of the organization.

So if these votes are needed on important corporate matters, they can simply send their votes by e-mail or other electronic means, if Internet facilities are not available at their area, there is the old reliable slow mail it still backs us.

Proxies

The easy availability of electronic transmission and the Internet, not to mention their reduced costs, have similarly influenced the manner by which some companies conduct meetings insofar as their stockholders, particularly if they number in thousands.

Until commonsensical protection and climate change become their words, most public companies sent notices and manual reports to their stockholders using high-quality paper.

After scanning through the pages, these documents often wind up in the trash can or, if the stockholder is ecology conscious, recycled for other uses.

In recent years, many companies have stopped this wide-scale printing of their annual reports and material send CDs with costs of hundreds of thousands of pesos to spend for the purpose of files.

If the CDs are resendable, they can, after sending their contents, be recycled for sale, at least.

Invariably the stockholder has any questions about the matters to be discussed in the annual stockholders' meeting, he can call a given member or go to the company's website for more information.

Subject to certain identification procedures, even the sending of proxy forms can be done online. He need to fill up a proxy form and send it by mail to the corporate secretary.

The proxy sender can access the company's website and load his proxy through it, or using his own e-mail address, send a proxy letter to the company naming the person he wants to represent him in the meeting.

With the necessary yet on notice about the proxy authorization, a downloaded copy of the proxy form presented by the proxy at the meeting would be sufficient to empower the latter to vote the stockholder's shares in the meeting.

(For feedback, please write to rjpabricante@yahoo.com.ph)

Robinsons Land posts 10% profit increase

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE SUBSIDIARIES PROPERTY arm, Robinsons Land Corp., posted a 10-percent net profit growth to P1.8 billion in the first semester of its fiscal year that ended in March.

The rise attributed to higher real estate and hotel revenues.

For January to March, the second quarter of its fiscal year, the net income attributable to equity holders of parent dipped by 2.3 percent to P926.9 million from a year ago as growth in expenses outpaced the rise in revenue.

The company's disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange showed that for the quarter ending March, gross revenues were up by 2.5% percent to P2.05 billion on the back of gains in real estate and hotel operations. However, expenses were up by 18 percent to P1.03 billion from a year ago level.

For the first semester of its fiscal year that began October 2009, cash flow as measured by earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization rose by 10 percent to P2.15 billion from a year ago level.

Combined real estate and hotel revenues went up by 7 percent to P6.3 billion.

The commercial centers division contributed P2.8 billion or half of the company's gross revenue, posting a 20-percent growth. Significant rental increment was contributed by the malls, specifically Robinsons Magnolia, Robinsons Ermita, Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Metro Manila and Robinsons Galleria, Ortigas, this area refocused as the grounds while other provincial malls also posted robust growth in rental income.

The residential division accounted for 29 percent at P1.8 billion in revenues for the period. Residential revenue declined by 22 percent to P1.50 billion due to slow completion of ongoing projects.

The hotels division, which contributed 10 percent or P570.5 million, up by 6 percent due to opening of Summit Ridge Tagaytay Hotel. The other existing hotels, Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila, Holiday Inn Galleria Manila and Cebu Midtown Hotel, posted occupancy rates of 74 percent, 90 percent and 58 percent, respectively.

"Despite the lower than expected revenue, income for the first half is still in line with internal expectations as this was offset by the lower than expected revenue expenses, however, expenses for the first half of this year reached just 28 percent of our full year forecast of P170 million," leading online stock brokerage Colfinancial said.

GOINGS-ON

U-Bix open Obama's showroom

U-BIX GROUP, THROUGH ITS FRONTLINE DIVISION, recently inaugurated its Obama Sales Office Premium showroom at the ground floor of the Pal Plaza Tower, Senedolupe Valet, Edsa, Makati City.

The event showcased the brand's innovative designs and models that Obamaya is known for worldwide.

It was hosted by U-Bix chair Edilber Ira B. Ibarra and was attended by Ibarra's fellow officers of Obamaya Corp. of Japan headed by Akihisuke Ishihara, who is the managing director and general manager for International Sales and marketing.

Since 1985, U-Bix Corp. has been the exclusive distributor of Obamaya in the Philippines, catering mainly to the corporate sector, designed vans, hospitals and ambulances, and executive lounges.

Obamaya's furniture systems includes a full line of desk, seating, panel and storage systems that is functional and easy to use.

Apart from the furniture system, U-Bix Corp. also offers the exclusive partition-cubicle services. Modular box set-ups, free delivery, and installation within Metro Manila and free assistance for office facilities requirements.

Cebuana Lhuillier-Smart partnership

CEBUANA LHUILLIER CLIENTS AND SMART SUBSCRIBERS CAN now load their mobile phones and get cash into their Smart Money accounts through the 1,200 Cebuana Lhuillier outlets nationwide.

With Cebuana Lhuillier locations strategically located in towns and barangays, Smart subscribers in rural areas need not go to the nearest Smart factory to send money to their relatives here and abroad using Smart Money.

"We are pleased to collaborate with Cebuana Lhuillier in providing our customers with more accessible, relevant, and affordable mobile innovative services," said Ramon J. Aldaba, Smart Wireless consumer division head.

Crocs ties up with coffee chain

CROCS, THE LEADING CASUAL AND INNOVATIVE FOOTWEAR brand, has up with Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf to bring to the market a special limited-time brand discount. They gotta a free muffin or specialty drink with every purchase of Crocs footwear. Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf Manila also got all the Crocs keychains plus a 10-percent discount for shoppers for a minimum single receipt of P1000.

Said combination gets a 10-percent discount at selected Crocs concept stores.

Ortigas group acquires 10% of Ongpin-led telco

By Paolo G. Montecillo

THE ORTIGAS group bought close to 10 percent of ISM Communications Corp., enabling the Ongpin family to own an equal stake in the Ortigas-led firm's board.

In a disclosure on Thursday, ISM said Sagittarius Inc. had acquired 10 billion shares of the phone company, representing about 9.7 percent of the telco's outstanding stock.

Major stockholders of Sagittarius Inc. include brothers Ignacio and Rafael Ortigas, who are sons of the family's matriarch, local real-estate giant Ortigas & Co.

The family owned property developer, which is registered as a partnership, is the developer of the Cavadilla commercial center and the Valle Verde residential subdivision.

"The majority of the board of directors of Sagittarius Inc. will determine who will represent the corporation in the meetings of ISM," the phone firm said in its disclosure.

Both Ignacio and Rafael Ortigas are existing ISM directors. Both also hold two provident positions in the firm.

Ignacio owns about 17 million ISM shares, while Rafael holds an even smaller stake of about 10.1 million shares, out of ISM's close to 200 billion outstanding shares.

Their holdings represent less than half of 1 percent of the company's voting rights.

The stake bought was worth P926 million, based on ISM's closing share price of P4.625 each yesterday.

Sagittarius officials were not immediately available for comment.

Earlier this month, ISM reported a less than 10-percent increase in its core operating revenue to P240.4 million in the first three months of the year, due to earnings contribution from subsidiary Bayan Telecommunications. Philippines Inc. (ETPI).

ETPI is one of the country's leading providers of data and Internet services to the knowledge business process outsourcing sector.

ISM owns about two-thirds of ETPI.

Despite the higher top line, it posted a net loss in the period of P1.729 million.

ISM is the telecommunications unit of the group of former Trade Secretary Ruben V. Ongpin.

The group's other businesses include gaming and real estate. It also recently acquired a substantial stake in San Miguel Corp.

Stocks down due to profit taking

LOCAL STOCKS were slightly lower yesterday as investors cut profit taking to safeguard some of further volatility in global financial markets.

The main share Philippine Stock Exchange index dipped by 10.47 points or 0.32 percent to close at 3,313.90 on the trading volume.

The index was weighed down by the property sector, which dropped by 1 percent, regarding the modest gains posted by holding firms, services and mining and oil counters.

The industrial and financial subindices also traded in the red.

At a value turnover of P1 billion, trading volume was weak compared with the previous week's average.

The slow volume in market dips means that this was not a correction from last week when post-election euphoria boosted the local market, dealers said.

There were 83 gainers, 84 decliners and 66 unchanged stocks.

Dealers said the local market was likewise participating another weak trading session (Thursday) in Wall Street as suggested by the weak futures index for US stocks.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Bank of the Philippine Islands, First Philippine Holdings Inc. and Banco de Oro Unibank led the day's decliners.

Meanwhile, Bank & Trust Co., International Container Terminal Services Inc., SM Investments Corp., First Gen Corp. and Universal Robina Corp. backed the downturn.

Overnight, New Jones Industrial Index was down by 86.58 points or 0.65 percent while the Nasdaq and S&P 500 indices also dipped by 0.82 percent and 0.51 percent, respectively. Investors were still jittery over several European initiatives to control budget and equities trading. Doris C. Bumatlac

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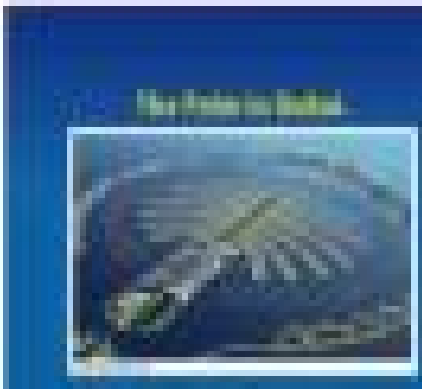

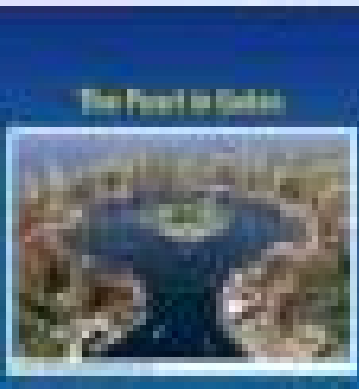

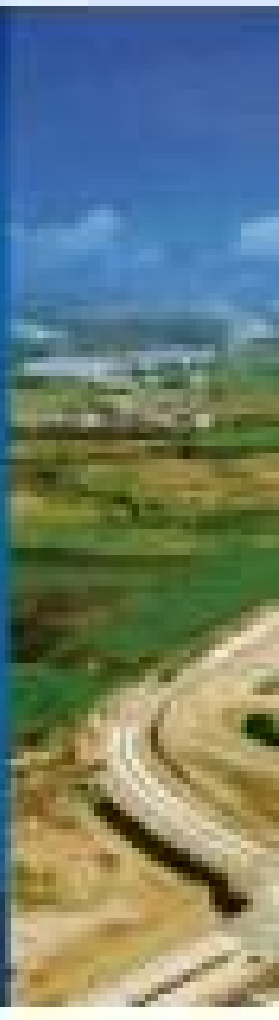

OPEN HOUSE

PetroEnergy, Hubtell post rise in profits

People, Events & Products

E-mail: ppe@inquirer.com.ph
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Lilou Arden Espinosa

Cebu Pacific flies to Pagadian

THE MONTH OF APRIL BROUGHT great news as Cebu Pacific (CEB), the country's low cost carrier in the Philippines, begins its direct flights to Pagadian. Travelers and locals can now enjoy easy access to the prime gateways of beautiful Zamboanga del Sur via CEB's convenient, inexpensive flights.

"We are proud to include Pagadian to our extensive domestic network, now composed of 33 domestic and 14 international destinations," said Candice Iyog, CEB vice president for marketing and distribution.

Started last April 27, CEB launched its Cebu-Pagadian route, to boost tourism and commerce between the two provinces. And on June 9, a Manila-Pagadian route will commence.

Pagadianons based in Manila and Cebu can now more easily go to their homes, unwind, and catch up with family and friends more often because of the airline's very affordable fares, which start at the lowest possible price round "Go Lite" fare of P1,086.

Moreover, travelers from Cebu and Manila to Dipolog, which is the main source of hydroelectric energy in Mindanao, and the historic Dapitan City in Zamboanga del Norte.

For the Pagadian area who's looking to explore these cities, head on to www.cebupacific.com.com now for more information on CEB's condemark fare fares and flight schedules.

ARANETA CENTER PARTNERS WITH PETRON

In line with the ongoing redevelopment efforts of the country's premier lifestyle hub and to stimulate diversified investment avenues in the near value to its tenants and customers, Araneta Center has signed a long-term supply agreement with industry leader Petron Corp. to MOL (Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) requirements, as official source of the parties' current Retail Alliance Agreement. As part of the partnership, Petron will be the exclusive LPG supplier for the various Araneta properties, specifically the Ellen Pil Mall, Farmers Plaza, Farmers Market, Shoppesville Arcade, and the Araneta Coliseum, as well as its affiliate Philippine Plaza Inn (PPI) which manages all Petron Inn and Tanza Red Inn-owned restaurants. At photo during the contract signing (left) Mike Tiu of the Supply Function Group of Petron and Tanza Red Inn-owned restaurants. At photo during the contract signing (left) Mike Tiu of the Supply Function Group of Petron and Gilberto Duque of Araneta Center are (from left) Robert L. Sadia (Petron - general manager for Canal trade), Miguel V. Augusto (Petron - VP for commercial marketing), Victor R. Ablaza (ACI - EVP/treasurer), and Antonio T. Merida (ACI - SVP for operations).

The Diabetasol solution

DIABETICS DON'T HAVE TO feel physically impaired or limited anymore because healthy, balanced nutrition is the role of their diseases which allow small bites hypercholesterolemia (the high level of cholesterol in the blood).

It is also safe for diabetics with hypertension because Diabetasol contains very low sodium level across other special nutritional formulas for diabetics. The Chemistry Medicine and Biotechnology help regulate carbohydrate metabolism and help improve blood sugar levels.

Its easy top of the morning meals with the cost-effective brand. It's convenient and easy to prepare for people on the go. It comes in three tasty and delicious flavors (vanilla, chocolate, and cappuccino), thus giving you more flexibility in meal planning.

As the Diabetasol Breakfast Club, exercise and drinking Diabetasol regularly makes great and delicious breakfast health habits for diabetics all over the country.

This nutritional powder drink is ideal for patients because it is cholesterol-free, thus reducing the risk of heart diseases which

Diabetasol is the meal replacement and supplement ideal for people diagnosed with diabetes mellitus.

BASF pesticide products re-launched at convention for PCOs

PEST CONTROL OPERATORS (PCOs) south of Metro Manila and the Calabarzon area recently got together for a mini-convention and re-launch of multinational chemical company BASF's pesticide products, co-organized by its distributor Asia Distillation Equipment Corp.

A total of 40 pest control operators (or "PCOs") gathered at Max's Restaurant in the Alabang area to meet with BASF officials and the chemical pesticides with Eggmen and BASF representatives, as well as with fellow PCOs. Over lunch, attendees watched a short presentation on the re-launched BASF products such as the insecticides Fendona and Alsan; the termiticide Sentrisa, and the rodenticide Storm. A new termiticide product, Crystal, was also talked about during the presentation.

After lunch, guests inquired about the existing BASF products in use open forum. Each was given several promotional packets of the powdered fendona, and some won BASF gift items during the subsequent raffle.

BASF Business manager Rufino Mercera expressed satisfaction over the success of the small but meaningful event.

"It's well-attended," she said. "I was told that only 30 PCOs would attend, but it became double that number. There's an increase in the number of pest control operators in the South, and it reflects the number of infrastructures that need treating, including houses and commercial and industrial areas."

Mercera added that this significant increase of PCOs in the area also means that similar gatherings are needed to keep them informed of new chemicals, technology, and procedures.

"We planned on a quarterly event. We could also do training and workshops, and share product information updates. They need to know not only the excellent details of the product, but also how to handle situations like flooding, so they would know how to treat their clients' problems."

Elmer Bautista, president of Eggmen Corp., likewise stressed the significance of the get-together.

"We can see the acceptance of the products through the PCOs," Bautista said. "PCOs in the area are interested in this kind of event. That's when we get the idea of doing a quarterly gathering. If BASF and Eggmen did this quarterly, the PCOs would be updated on new products and sharing of ideas and tips. With this kind of event, we support the operators to use BASF products more. They still check out other brands, but because of gatherings like this, other PCOs can persuade them that BASF products are superior to others. One of the guests was thinking of using another brand but was convinced of using one of the re-launched BASF products after a colleague told him about his positive experiences."

He concluded that the event will ultimately prove beneficial to the pest control companies' clients.

"The PCOs will benefit because when they use BASF products, they'll get the same even if they don't change prices for their clients. This will benefit the client in terms of considerable discounts, aside from effective ones."

Attendees openly expressed flexibility with the re-launched BASF products, and are looking forward to informative assemblies with fellow pest control operators in the future. Products included fendona (a broad-brough formulation designed to prevent structures from entering), abamx 18C (which controls the breeding of dengue at yellow fever-spreading mosquitoes), and fendona (a high-performance residual insecticide that eliminates a variety of pests like mosquitoes, ants, cockroaches, houseflies, and fleas harmless).

To know more about the company and its wide range of products, visit www.basf.com. To know more about other highly effective, environment-friendly, and recommended pest control products, call Eggmen Corp., BASF Philippines Inc's appointed local distributor, at (02)635-3109 and (02)-632-2276.

Love your heart this summer

SUMMER IS THE BEST TIME TO start taking care of your heart. This is the time when you can start engaging in more physical activities and start managing your weight with healthy food options. Here are some tips on how you can get started in giving your heart the right TLC it needs.

Control your food intake. Good nutrition means eating the right foods at the right amounts. Remember to eat a variety of foods from the different food groups, to such as possible, stay away from bad fats like saturated fats and trans fats.

Instead of fatty foods, opt for healthy alternatives like fish, vegetables, and fresh fruits in season. Fortunately, summer is the season of more tropical fruits so while they're abundant, feel free to indulge!

Get a little more physical. Many of us think that as we age we don't need to be as active as when we were younger. But truth is, as we age, we need even more exercise. Both aerobic and muscle-strengthening activities are essential for healthy aging.

The American College of Sports Medicine recommends at least 30 minutes of physical activity most days of the week to improve health. You can do this by making small changes that challenge your body throughout the day. Take the stairs instead of the elevator or escalator, park a few spaces farther from the store entrance, or go swimming with your family.

Resist the lure of vices. As we are always reminded, smoking is dangerous to our health. A study from the University of California at Berkeley Wellness Letter (Vol. 16 #4) shows that smoking also increases our risk of heart attack. So while you're still enjoying life, quit smoking. It's the healthiest decision you can make.

Nutrition, exercise, and avoiding vices: these things to summer. But when it comes to heart health, they are instrumental to help keep you healthy and heart-healthy even in 90 Centrum Silver. Complete for adults 50 and over, it is scientifically formulated to provide you with all the essential vitamins and minerals which includes heart-healthy nutrients such as antioxidants, Vitamin B12, B6, and Folic Acid.

Loving your heart is no summer thing. Once you've started caring for your heart, make it a part of your lifestyle. Your heart will thank you for it.

100 BEST SURGEONS OF THE WORLD

Hosted by Dr. Cesar Sabanpan-Jones, past and co-founder of the Philippine Society of Cosmetic Surgeons, receiving the award on one of the "100 Best Surgeons of the World" from Dr. Fernando Pimbo, board of trustee of the International Academy of Cosmetic Surgery and Dr. Lisa Peters, founding president of the International Academy of Cosmetic and Aesthetic Surgery and general secretary of the International Academy of Cosmetic Surgery, during the

Gala Night Congress of the International Academy of Cosmetic Surgery in Cartagena, Colombia.

SONY PLAYSTATION LAUNCH AT GLORIETTA

Hundreds of Sigma Playstation fans got a rare chance of seeing their favorite video games launched for the fresh during the game packed official launch of Playstation at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati last March 27. Events group Mediaquest and brand communications body manage the launch of the new video gaming device, the successful event, which drew crowds with its Cosplay competition, Playstation tournament, Playstation exhibit and performances from DPM bands Cebu Up and Pupil. Almost are the Employees with Sony Computer Entertainment Asia provided for audio bands Sony Philippines and Takao Kuroda, Market managing director for Sony Asia, and Sony Pictures for marketing Eddie Rivera.

Hanes Ladies Loyalty Program

HANES PROUDLY REWARDS TO FEMALE patrons with the Hanes Ladies Loyalty Program. Because you like receiving Hanes, Hanes Ladies loyalty program brings great back in the form of a rewards card, given after a minimum purchase of P1500 of selected Hanes products. Four months rewards starts here. For every P100 purchase worth of Hanes products, you are entitled to one sticker. With an accumulated stickers, Hanes rewards you with a free Light Heels jacket, to keep you warm and comfortable anywhere. The Light Heels jacket can be claimed at any SM department store and another Hanes Loyalty Card upon redemption. This promo will run until July 31 at SM department stores nationwide.

Free fuel with every Michelin tire purchase

MICHELIN, ONE OF THE WORLD'S LEADING TIRE MAKERS, IS GIVING customers fuel gift certificates as a way of thanking Wilpine motorists for trusting in its products. From March 1 to May 31, every single receipt purchase of Michelin passenger car/light truck (PC/LT) tires of the same pattern from any participating Michelin dealer entitles consumers to a complimentary fuel gift certificate which can be redeemed at select Petron outlets nationwide. The amount of fuel gift certificates to be issued is based on the corresponding the quantity and pattern of purchased Michelin tires, as follows: two Michelin Performance Speed tires (Pilot Primacy or Pilot Sport) - P1,000; two Performance Comfort tires (Primacy LTX, Energy MXV4 or Energy XM2) - P1,000; two Recreational Light Truck 4x4 tires or greater, LTX A/T or Diamaris - P500; and two Entry/Commercial Light Trucks tires (XSW, Energy XM2, Synchrib or Agilis) - P500. For Energy XM2, the 14-inch rim tires under "Entry" while the 15-inch rim falls under "Performance varieties". For more details, visit any of the participating Michelin dealers near you or visit www.michelin.com.ph.

Hallmark's treat for moms and dads

WHAT ARE YOUR MOST CHERISHED MOMENTS? #HASHTAG THESE memories are, moms and dads are always part of your greatest moments of happiness. And now, you can share the world just how amazing your parents are through the Hallmark Snapshots of Love Photo Contest. Capture endearing moments with mom and dad and get a chance to win an Apple iTouch, Canon PowerShot camera, and other exciting prizes. All you need to do is buy any Hallmark Mother's Day or Father's Day cards and submit a photo of a special moment with your parents. With just a single photo and a Hallmark Mother's Day or Father's Day card, you have said those three words that make the world be there - I Love You. Hallmark Snapshots of Love Photo Contest runs from April 16 to June 21 at National Book Store and other fine retail stores nationwide. See posters or log on to www.hlsa.com for more details.

GNHS Class '80 grand alumni homecoming reunion

THE GUBAT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL (GNHS) CLASS 1980 OF GUBAT, Sorsogon is announcing their grand alumni homecoming reunion this coming June 10, at the Guadalcanal of IDMS. Please contact Mrs Leah G. Nieves, class president and coordinator for all batchmates at tel. nos. 348-0170, 846-2141, 353-6804 or (0920-8050921 for further details.

IIFA 3rd TV Commercials Directing Workshop

THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR FILM AND ARTS (IIFA), AN ALL-ABOUT-FILM school in the Philippines, is conducting a directing workshop from May 29 to June 6, 10a.m. to 5 p.m. at the IIFA Lab 501 Evelyn Bldg., Annapolis, Mandaluyong City. You may e-mail the Executive Director at ellen.santos@gmail.com or call 318-1301 and +63927-4850088 for more information. Workshop fee is P15,000 and is limited to 30 slots only. Discount grants are also available for deserving applicants. Interested parties may send a short letter of intent to Director Ronnie Mamangun, IIFA vice president and e-mail him at director.ronnie@gmail.com.

Gov't expands hybrid rice areas to cope with El Niño

By Rica T. Didondra

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULture wants a bigger area planted to hybrid rice in the second half of this year to offset expected production losses due to dry spells caused by the El Niño weather phenomenon.

Hybrid rice yields about 80 percent more than inbred varieties and their hybrid seeds are required per hectare.

The DA wants an additional 64,170 hectares of rice fields planted with hybrid rice in top of the original target of 96,388 has under the Kadiwang Mangunguma Ani (DA) Rice Program.

Dr. Flora Mahilomsa, director of the DA's Kadiwang Mangunguma Ani (DA) Rice Program, said the increased plans will cover Central Luzon, Western Visayas, the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), and the entire Mindanao and this should especially expedite services to nonadopters.

The Philippines, the world's largest rice importer, lost 449,546 tons of rice in the first quarter. This, as production dropped to 3.49 million tons from 3.94 million tons due to extreme heat, according to a report by the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS).

The decline in rice production may worsen to 992,000 metric tons in the first nine months of the year, the report said. It said that output in the first nine months of the year may decline to 9.99 million tons from 10.891 million tons a year earlier.

That is higher than the 800,000 tons to El Niño-related losses projected by the government under a second-case scenario.

Agri dep't to add 64,170 hectares

Bring in the new

By Bronson M. Ordanes

"OUT WITH THE OLD, BRING IN the new."

This is often good advice when change is desired. But taken too literally, doing this may be the downfall of the new government, which we are all looking forward to.

We have all seen changes in government administrations, be it big or small. We tend to be disappointed with what happens next.

There are two phrases we should keep in mind to shun this disconcerted happen again.

One is "throwing the baby out with the bath water."

Honest officials

Two, we often all pretty disappointed, even disgusted, with the corruption we have seen over the last 40 years. And with the presence of government officials I'm this. But the great majority of our government personnel are honest and hardworking. They exhibit admirable patriotism with the long hours and low pay they have to endure in order to serve people.

For this, they deserve our respect and admiration.

It is fitting that the corrupt officials should be immediately replaced and prosecuted. But extreme should be taken not to characterize as "crony" the honest and competent officials with the exemption ones.

All too often, we have seen the new viewers in an electoral campaign come in like conquering heroes to divide the spoils and all, for the position.

They appoint friends who have shown little competence to replace proven competent officials. The result has often been even poorer performance.

It is suggested that if certain government personnel have kept their integrity and showed competence during the past years, they should be treated with respect and justice.

Bath water

They should not just be discarded like the proverbial bath water just because they served under the previous folks.

Throw the baby out, but not the bath water, what's can be very good of asset is exhibiting our nations.

COMMENTARY

At the Department of Agriculture (DA), many fit this description. They should be harnessed in restructuring a new DA.

For example, those who oversaw and upgrade the use of low-water dependent rice varieties as well as the early planting of rice to outrun part the dry spell, did a great job in minimizing the potential damage of El Niño.

There's no reason made the planned unprecedented government interventions of three million tons of rice appear unnecessary.

Such DA personnel should be harnessed even more, and not be put aside just because there is a new government.

The other phrase that we should guard against is "not invented here (NIH)."

The NIH syndrome is a congenital sickness of egotistical new government officials. They distrust programs of the past administration even without discerning which ones are truly effective, because they are in too much of a hurry to make a name for themselves.

In the early 2000s, some may have been guilty of this when they junked the then current DA master plans formulated by respected consultants.

The formulation of the plan was completed by an oversight committee composed of former Secretaries Senen Bacani and Gelberto Sicat, and former Deputy Minister Mariano Lim.

While the incoming management should be commended for creating government power some reasonably bonds, these bonds would have been much more effective if they updated and used the commodity master plans.

Three commodity bonds have proven to be effective, but have been created for only a few commodities.

Instead of the new DA management embarking on the formation of possible NIH syndrome, three bonds should be expanded to cover more or the commodities. For example, rice is the need of truckful bonds.

Rice could also benefit greatly from a well-crafted master plan, which was the starting point before the commodity master plans discarded earlier because they were "not invented here."

Recommendation

This past week, we have heard about farsighted top officials who have already taken steps to propose directions and plans for the new government to consider in the short and medium term.

The Federation of Bodies drawing this are the Philippine National Police and the Philippine Retirement Authority.

It is recommended first, in the spirit of unity and service to the nation, all outgoing heads of government bodies and similar units be enlisted.

It is also recommended that the incoming officials consider that input very seriously, refrain from throwing the baby out with the bath water, and guard against the NIH syndrome.

There are sure "keep the good in the old, and bring in the new with the added perspective of the old."

(The author a chair of Agri-watch. For inquiries and suggestions, e-mail agriwatch_ph@yahoo.com or telefax (02) 8722-0121.)

Wheat flour imports on BOC alert list

By Abigail L. Ho

THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS HAS PLACED all wheat flour shipments entering the country under "enhanced alert," in light of rampant technical smuggling of the product.

In a recent memorandum, Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales said the directive was issued in response to reports by the Philippine Association of Flour Millers (PAFM) that a number of foreign companies, particularly of Turkish flour, entered the country without paying proper taxes.

Poland is seeking a stop to rampant flour smuggling, claiming that the country has lost more than P80 million in tax revenues in 2008 and 2009 alone due to this practice.

Poland said that in February and March, 50 containers of Turkish flour entered the country without paying the proper taxes.

The shipments were priced at only $30 per metric ton (MT), a move 10 percent of the $300-per-MT price set by the Value Paf-rents to full customs duties.

There is no product Turkish flour shipments allegedly entered the country through the Port of Batangas.

Imported flour is normally slapped a duty of 7 percent, plus VAT of 12 percent collected at the port of entry.

Petron seeks ethanol supply agreements

By Amy R. Remo

PETRON CORP. THE COUNtry's largest oil refiner and marketer, is looking to sign supply agreements with ethanol producers, to encourage more investments in the industry to boost local supply.

"We are lifting the initiative to pursue off-take agreements with ethanol producers so we can further incentivize ethanol supply from local sources," said Petron chairman and CEO Ramon S. Ang in a statement.

By 2011, the company estimates that it will have to import about 60 percent of the country's requirements to meet the 5-percent **ethanol blend mandate**, as provided under the 2006 Biofuels Law.

But with mandatory local supply, Petron will need to source more imported ethanol by next year, as all companies will be mandated to have a 10-percent blend in all gasoline products.

Petron is on for the early local oil company with a supply agreement with a local ethanol producer—the Cebu Bioethanol Inc. (CBI).

CBI owns the country's first integrated ethanol and cogeneration plant with a capacity to produce 120,000 liters of ethanol daily. The company now aims the firm to purchase the first locally-produced feed grade ethanol from Leyte Agri Corp. in August 2010.

"This year, ethanol demand is expected to reach 216 million liters, based on the 5-percent minimum blend.

However, local ethanol producers can only supply about 30 percent of the demand or an estimated 65 million liters this year.

The supply is expected to come from San Carlos Bioenergy Inc., which produces 45 million liters a year; Leyte Agri Corp. with 18 million liters annually; and Roxol Bioenergy of Roxas Holdings Inc., which is expected to go on stream this year, with an annual production of 33 million liters.

Once the government mandates a 10-percent blend starting next year, ethanol demand is expected to increase to 461 million liters by 2011, data showed.

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BUSINESS

Sugar export delay feared due to Bangkok standoff

Dealers' stocks run low as violence disrupts supply

SINGAPORE/BANGKOK—MORE than 100,000 tons of sugar shipments from Thailand could be delayed in May after deadly violence in Bangkok disrupted vending and dealers ran out of foundry stocks, industry sources said on Thursday.

Disruptions in shipments from Thailand, the world's second-largest exporter, could support sugar futures which have slumped from earlier peaks due to improving crops in India and Brazil.

But Thailand's Office of Cane and Sugar Board (OCSB) said exporters could now apply for export licenses online after the violence forced many trading houses to close their offices.

Some dealers also reported some shipments to resume next week.

"Sugar is a sensitive commodity that we need to keep a very close eye on, calculating the papers do still do exist, before giving licenses to exporters," OCSB secretary general Preuert Hiranoraphol told Reuters.

"However, we agree to ease the regulations, allowing them to submit the licenses online and they could get approved within a day and we hope everything can be run smoothly as usual within this week." Firms were still hesitating in central Bangkok on Thursday after an overnight curfew followed a day of riots and arson by anti-government protesters in which fatalities officials said at least seven other people were killed.

The authorities said late on Wednesday 27 buildings were set on fire by protesters, including Central World, Southeast Asia's second-biggest department store complex, which was gutted and looked close to collapse.

"I checked around with many shippers this morning and I assess they are weak and can't get through the export licensing process," said a physical dealer in Singapore, who sells Thai sugar.

"I estimate the amount of sugar which is not ready for shipment to be between 100,000 and 120,000 tons but hopefully, we can get the license this coming Monday." Other dealers said some shipments had been delayed by up to three weeks, partly because some cargoes could not reach the port after protesters blocked the routes.

That raw sugar premiums have risen on-fold to the current levels since January after New York futures tumbled from a 29-year peak at 30.48 US cents per pound and supply shook on Thailand because many dealers had already committed to sell sugar to advances.

Thailand has finished its 2009/10 crushing season and produced 6.9 million tons of the sweetener, according to the OCSB. That fell slightly short of its forecast of 7.0 million tons in late February.

Raw sugar for July on ICE Futures settled up 0.13 cent, or almost 1 percent, at 14.93 cents a pound on Wednesday. White sugar for August on London's falls ended up $6.40 at $587.50 per ton. London sugar stock a record in January. Reuters

A PICTURE taken on January 3, 2010 shows an Emirati woman and her children walking past Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest tower, in Dubai. Dubai's debt-laden group, Dubai World, said on May 25, 2010 it has reached an agreement "in principle" with most of its bank lenders to restructure some $23 billion in debt. AFP

Clean energy for China pushed

BEIJING—US COMMERCE SECRETARY Gary Locke began three days of meetings in Beijing on Thursday to push opportunities for American clean energy companies looking to cash in on China's fast-growing renewables market.

While legislation aimed at cutting US greenhouse gas emissions and dependence on fossil fuels is mired in Congress, China's central planners are pushing ahead with programs to expand solar and wind power, by thousands of miles of new transmission lines and adopt "Smart Grid" technology to distribute power more efficiently.

"I would have to say that China is leading us in that effort," said Martha Doggett, vice president of United Solar Ovonic.

The Michigan-based manufacturer, a unit of Energy Conversion Devices, has a joint venture with an electricity provider in Tianjin to convert solar cells manufactured in the United States to solar modules for use in China.

"It seems to me that government-level interest we see a lot of opportunity," Doggett said, adding that her company planned to sign "a fairly significant order" on Saturday.

The chinese group trade group includes major firms like General Electric, which has already sold over $100 million turbines to China, and First Solar Inc., the world's leading and lowest-cost producer of solar photovoltaic cells.

Low-cost homes firms include Wuhan-based Hanwei Limited's home manufacturing base in Shenzhen, which is planning a Beijing support structure that would allow officials to relocate homes to be built in previously inaccessible locations where water depths exceed 50 meters. Reuters

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Inquire now at your nearest BPI or BPI Family Savings Bank branch. For more details, log onto www.bpiexpressonline.com

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Euro falls again on fresh jitters

TOKYO—THE EURO FELL ON Thursday, edging back toward a four-year low as investors nervous over policy disarray in the euro zone trimmed their assets in the region and eyed the premier day's measure to staff the euro recovery.

Higher-yielding currencies dropped, with the Australian dollar hitting an eight-month low as still in some shares beyond investor tolerance of risk, traders said.

There was talk some managers of Japanese mutual funds or "trusts" were selling assets related to emerging markets, the euro zone and higher-yielding currencies, possibly to repatriate funds in case stock falls led taxable holders to cancel, they said.

The euro had rebounded from a four-year low of $1.2145 on Wednesday as traders covered short positions on speculation European monetary officials might move to check its rapid fall.

A European Central Bank spokesman declined comment on the matter to more and four group-Jean-Claude Juncker said in Tokyo on Thursday he did not see a need to take immediate action.

"After it rose above $1.24, players such as speculators and macro hedge funds were said to selling the currency" said a trader at a Japanese trust bank.

"But they probably don't want to further build euro short positions after seeing its sudden rebound on Wednesday. So the euro may be supported around $1.227," he said. Reuters

Indon central bank gets new chief

JAKARTA—INVESTORS WELcomed Indonesia's appointment of veteran banker Agus Martowardojo as its new finance minister, but while stocks jumped on Thursday's opening, they soon declined in line with other regional markets.

Martowardojo, 54, replaces top economist Sri Mulyani Indrawati and is widely expected to continue her reform drive by cracking down on corruption, overhauling the bureaucracy and pushing for improved performance from the tax office overseas state revenues.

But Martowardojo will face the same resistance from old guard politicians and powerful businessmen strongly opposed to reforms that dogged Indrawati's tenure.

Some analysts were quick to warn him to take a different approach to his deputy predecessor and pointed out that parliament had previously rejected his nomination for the post of governor of Bank Indonesia (BI), the central bank, in 2008, a blunt reminder of parliament's power to scrap with or against him.

As president director of Bank Mandiri, the country's biggest lender by assets, Martowardojo took an active interest and powerful debtors, famously publishing a "name and shame" list of borrowers who had defaulted on their loans. Reuters

Oil extends gains on supply worries

SINGAPORE—OIL STUCK ABOVE $70 a barrel on Thursday, extending gains from a day earlier on a less than expected rise in US crude stocks and euro gains against the dollar.

The euro held above four-year lows on Thursday as its latest bounce higher prompted short covering by investors, although sentiment was fragile, with many betting euro policy disarray in the euro zone.

US crude oil inventories rose far less than expected last week and distillate stocks showed an unexpected decline, data from the US Energy Information Administration (EIA) showed.

US crude for June delivery rose 42 cents to $70.00, after settling up 46 cents at $69.67 a day earlier.

The contract ran up more than $3 a barrel as traders covered short positions ahead of the expiry later in the day.

London Brent crude for July was flat at $73.69 a barrel.

"EIA data overnight was pretty positive for the market, not only with a surprise fall in distillates, but also a positive decline in crude stocks," said Olaf Wittenstein, an analyst at National Australia Bank.

"But I think the most relevant factor in the market at the moment is still the situation in the euro zone. Overnight it seems to be more uncertain as Germany banned naked short selling." Germany banned investors who do not own or have not borrowed certain stocks, bonds and derivatives from selling them, in a move that appeared to catch its partners in the European Union off guard. Reuters

BUSINESS Friday

Los Baños' B&B rises in rambutan orchard

By Marican Cinco
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LOS BAÑOS, LAGUNA—THIS TOWN that houses a campus of the University of the Philippines (UP) and an outdoor destination in Mount Makiling opened an opportunity for couple Boni and Joy Villegas to put up a bed and breakfast that will accommodate tourists coming here every so often.

The couple opened Lisa's Orchard that first started as a venue for grand occasions on a 1.6-hectare rambutan orchard of Boni's 84-year old mother, Lisa.

In a few years, the business grew to having a restaurant and catering services called Cafe Boni and a bed and breakfast that cater to Los Baños residents and visitors.

Hitting her "saturation point" after years of being a corporate employee, Joy retired in 1998.

ABI CHEMMONT cop or Lisa's Garden costs P1,000 to P2,100 a room, including breakfast.

Costly learning

As she and her husband became self-employed in the life insurance and property development businesses, respectively, the couple also dabbled into opening a three-story freelance resort destination here.

"At the time, the university still us than there were only a few dorms around," Joy says.

But the couple found it difficult to sustain the business' profitability as other dormitories also started sprouting around the UP campus, tightening market competition.

"We realized that even if we were able to fill up the entire dormitory, the income would still not be enough to pay for the bank loan," Joy recalls.

She says they were paying about P80,000 monthly for amortization.

"I was so hard. We could not afford to pay two debts anymore (so) we were forced to sell it to a Chinese two years later," Joy says.

But she says it was very stressful that, "I grew several gray hair, talking and explaining to the students' parents why we had to sell the dorm."

But looking back, Joy would say they learned a lot from the mistake.

"Don't do bank loans unless for business with quick turnover," she says.

"My husband would always say 'Our eye is big, tummy for the learning," she adds.

Idle land

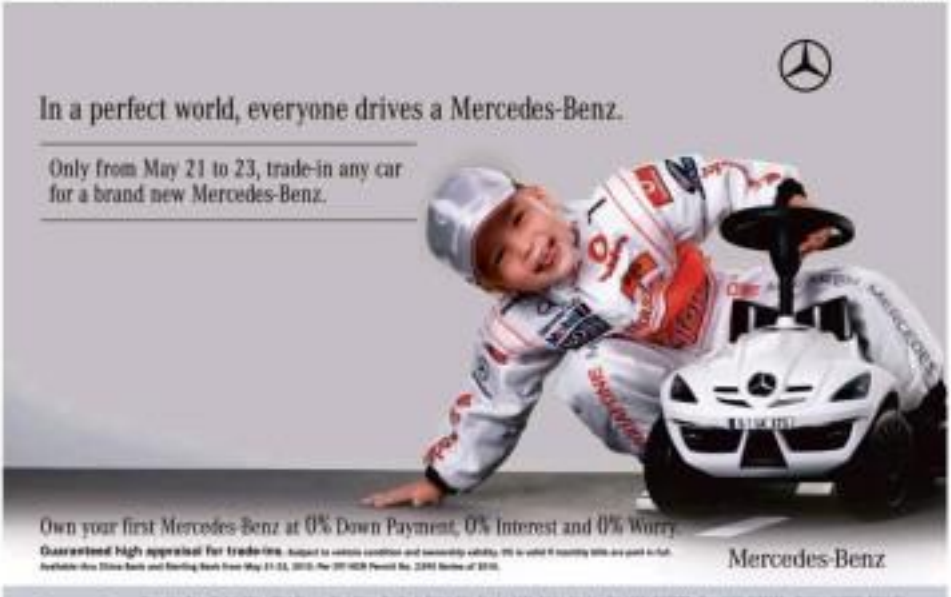
When Typhoon "Milenyo" hit Southern Luzon in 2006, the rambutan orchard suffered damages, leaving the property almost unproductive.

"It was Boni's idea that for us to be different...since there were already a lot of dorms around, why not put up a multipurpose pavilion," says Joy.

In 2007, the couple publicly opened the garden of fruit trees and organic vegetables with its 500-sq.m. pavilion that could house 250 to 300 persons for weddings, baptisms and debuts.

"Then the guests, specially those staying overnight for weddings, need-

LOS BAÑOS B2-1



People, Events & Products

Edna Arlen Espinosa

Foton launches all new 2010 vehicle models

LAST APRIL 15, FOTON MOTOR PHILS (FMP) unveiled 4 new models which include the View Van, Tornado 2.5, Mixtruck 4x2 and 4x4 Turbo and MPV with capacity seats at the 8th Manila International Auto show held at the World trade Center in Pasay City. Foton now provides a more complete line-up of commercial vehicles.

Included in the launch is the Foton View Passenger Van equipped with a reliable, cost, and fuel-efficient 2.8L CRDI Turbo-diesel engine. Generally the longest (5.320mm) and most powerful (102hp) 15-seater diesel powered van in the Philippines, the View is also the best value for money given the introductory price of only P688,000. The van boasts of having 11 individual reclinable seats and a spacious beach type seat for 4 people. Unlike other vans in its category which have pump mounted fuel away to provide a passage way for passengers, the View has a fixed side saloon thus could pass through at any given time without disturbing the other occupants.

Adding to the extensive suites of Foton Tornado trucks is the all-new Tornado 2.5, With its powerful yet efficient 2.5 liter Turbo Intercooled Diesel Engine, this version can effortlessly haul up to 3.3/4kg of load and accommodate various grade with its 14 footer cargo body. Available in cab and chassis, drop side, and aluminum van, businessmen has an array of choices to suit the demands of different needs.

FMP's best selling model, Foton Mixtruck 4x4 is recently got a facelift completed with a better and more powerful engine. Now equipped with a new Turbo Charger, the 2.8L Direct Injection Diesel engine of the Mixtruck promises more in performance. More horsepower, increased torque, better fuel efficiency and improved driving pleasure are just some of the additional benefits.

The first Foton 2010 item has a new variant which is the MPV with "Captain Seats". This specimen runs on 16 up to 8 adults in elegantly designed captain leather chairs. All of these are reclinable to ensure a safe and comfortable travel. The front row passenger seats of the cabin are also completely accessible making it ideal for business meeting simply by reclining it to face the passengers at the back. Also, the van is handicap-friendly since the dual entrance doors are low like the doors for access to LRT.

The success of this year's launch can be attributed to FMP's dedication to living up to its commitment of providing high quality commercial vehicles at very affordable prices.

LG, ABS-CBN PARTNER FOR HALALAN 2010

LG Electronics Philippines formalized its partnership with ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. by way of contract signing last June 16. The marketing powerhouse will be the official consumer electronics and appliance partner of ABS-CBN's coverage of the 2010 Philippine Presidential elections. Shown are (from left) Jose Apostle C. Benitez, Jr., ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. head of Channel 2 Sales; Rodney Yap, ABS-CBN Integrated Production head; Sandy Chua, Core accredited unit CEE of LG Electronics Philippines; Klara Rosa, ABS-CBN News and Current Affairs Director; Sarah Lee Raymundo, senior manager, LG Corporate Marketing; and

TOYOTA CONVENES ITS LOCAL SUPPLIERS

Officials of Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. (TMP) and its auto parts and accessories suppliers gathered during the 29th Toyota Supplier's Club (TSC) General Assembly held at the Hilton Hotel in Manila. The conference was led by Dennis Arriola (left) of TSC chair Eddie Arao. TMP president Katsuhiro Nagata, with Toyota Motor Asia Pacific Engineering and Manufacturing senior vice president Yasuhiro Hirata. In his keynote message, Nagata called on the members to use Hilton's quality standard as basis to further enhance the competitiveness of their products and services in light of the enormous growth potential of the Philippine automotive market.

Powerade Philippine Duathlon Open 2010 kicks off in Filinvest City

AMONG 500 RACERS TOOK PART IN THE first leg of the Powerade Philippine Duathlon Open 2010 held last April 18 at the Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang with the national duathlete champions August Benedicto and Monica Torres leading the elite class.

Tubic City's August Benedicto finished first in the Men's Duathlon Elite class in 1:20:29. He was followed by Philippine-Canadian Jordan who negotiated the race in 1:21:54 while Philippine Air Force 1st Class Ben Mendoza placed third at 1:22:06.

In the Women's Division, world's number five Monica Torres beat her opponent with a time of 1:37:52. Rina Mangubalang and Rachelle Tingzon came in second and third with official time of 1:40:47 and 1:42:13, respectively.

Both Benedicto and Torres placed third in the recent 2010 Shikang Bear ITU Duathlon Series held in Nong Khai, Thailand. Aries, their fellow national team member, took the multi-place in the said international race.

Now on its second year, the Powerade Philippine Duathlon Open is organized by Adrenaline Multisport in partnership with Triathlon Association of the Philippines (TRAP) and Filinvest Corporate City. It aims to discover new talents by becoming the training ground of the national team.

The race followed a distance of 6k run, 20k bike and 3k run. It will continue with its second leg in July at Filinvest Corporate City with the same run distance. The finaling will be held in September at Marcelo in Santo Tomas, Laguna with distances of 10k run, 40K bike and 5k run.

After the successful staging of the first Philippine Duathlon Open in 2009, Powerade has continued to co-sponsor this event given the growing interest for this multi-sport. Powerade believes that every athlete and sports enthusiast can enjoy sportfest games moving from living running to more challenging duathlon which tests their endurance and determination to keep running and pedaling to the finish. Scientifically formulated to replenish lost fluids, carbohydrates and electrolytes in the body, Powerade ensures that everybody's hydration needs were met.

The event was sponsored by Powerade Sports Drink, Hotter, City Body Fitness, Mobile Coast, Philippine Tourism Authority Columbia, Bike King, Adrenaline Multisport, Runner's Edge, Active and Fitness Multisport, Pinahan Website and Omnipotent.

For more information, contact Thumbie Nemaga of Adrenaline Multisport at 0919-05-607-2080.

ProductFILES

Victorinox gives away free Escort Swiss Army Knife

SUMMER IS THE BEST TIME TO CRAFT NEW PURSUITS. THIS SEASON, START A COLLECTION OF Victorinox Swiss Army knives. A symbol of excellence, dependability and dedication for 120 years worldwide, this Swiss made pocket tool is a wide array of knives and tool combinations to suit every lifestyle and distinct needs. As a special gift to its loyal patrons and new customers, Victorinox will be giving away Victorinox 84600 Escort worth P4,895.75. This model boasts of a wonderful tools – handy multi-bit with screwdriver, key ring, tweezers, toothpick. It's an ideal pocket accessory for sporting, anywhere use. To avail of this promo, a minimum single-receipt purchase of Victorinox products worth P7,500 entitles the customer to one Victorinox 84600 Escort absolutely free. What a great addition to a special collection of tools that once forged to last a lifetime. This promo will end on May 30, 2010! Victorinox Swiss Army Knife is exclusively distributed by Star Paper Corp and is available in leading department store nationwide.

Kenny Rogers Roasters Newport opens

FOR A TRAFFIC-WARY & SATISFYING MEAL BEFORE catching his flight, a casino patron craving a hearty roast beef or someone looking for a great place to dine with family and friends, Kenny Rogers Roasters' newly opened branch at Newport City is the ideal place to be in. Located at the Ground Floor of the Star Cinema Centre just across Maxi's and Manila E is the first to open Rogers Roasters branch to offer full service dining. Have a taste of mouthwatering Kenny's Ultimate Sandwich – a full service dining experience, easy dishes, modern interiors and the best coffee conversations, Kenny Rogers at Newport City is open from 7 a.m. until 10 p.m. Monday to Thursday, and from 7 a.m. until 11 p.m. Friday to Sunday. For inquiries and deliveries, call tel. no. 555-8888, or visit www.kennyrogers.ph.

SAMSUNG INTRODUCES BADA AND APPS STORE

Samsung officials announced at the company's second Subculture Mall unit launch the introduction of Samsung smartphones, with the Samsung phone being the first phone to feature the new operating system. The officials also announced the Samsung apps store as well as developers' website for the Bada platform. Shown are (from left) Samsung Electronics Philippines Corp. Sales Manager Mary Ann Ramirez; Bada platform developer Mary Ann Samonte; Samsung Application Administrator Charles Chua; who attended; Samsung Mobile Philippines MC Rob; and Apostle C. Benitez, Jr. ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp head of Channel 2 Sales; Rodney Yap, ABS-CBN Integrated Production head; Sandy Chua, Core accredited unit CEE of LG Electronics Philippines; Klara Rosa, ABS-CBN News and Current Affairs Director; Sarah Lee Raymundo, senior manager, LG Corporate Marketing; and

CEO and panelists, Samsung Electronics Philo Hao Young Kwon; assistant manager, Corbett Service Team, Samsung and Addition, Corbett's Service.

Affordable summer fun

SUMMER USUALLY SOARS! earrings and accessories, but refuse a little light on cash, there's always the option of altering the comforts of home. In order to avoid lethargy, fill those heavy bottom and exercise. Using old, active money thieves accessories, such as skipping ropes, exercise balls, light weights and yoga mats your own home fitness room into your new private gym.

With simple tools, simple space and proper equipment, you can keep fit and stay active while saving a lot with a long time investment. Plus, you actually help save the environment, reducing greenhouse emissions by staying at home.

One of the simplest but most rewarding activities you can ever do this summer is walking and running. A little natural cardio doesn't have anyone or their pockets. It doesn't cost much to enjoy a lovely walk or take two, or a comfortable shoes and not-too-tight comfortable footwear should be enough to get the job done. Just a friendly reminder, keep yourself hydrated to avoid the dangers of the sun-burning heat of the sun.

One way of enjoying time with family and friends in some room in the good old outdoors. Be it just a picnic at the park or an overnight camping, nothing beats the comfort of nature's home quite pointers away from the hustle of the city and quality time spent with the people who matter to you is a perfect way to relax.

Spending on a camp set-up is a simple picnic set would pay this. Already on the future. Having the opportunity to get away at a while and doing other outdoor activities like trekking is a cheap way to bond and have fun.

Doing something with your passion is always lightens the burden, especially when the burden in question is a financial one. If one thing you surely a lot of people, then that definitely count as a major money saver. What better way to spend the month than by playing outdoor team sports? Be it basketball, soccer, volleyball or basketball, your ball is enough to do the trick.

Sure, those activities would have you thrill out some, though. But rules all the fun and benefits you'd get in return, it's worth every penny. Some of your favorite sports retail chain in the Philippines, Today's Sports. Today's offers a line of over 10,000 sports products from 240 international brands known sports brands, covering 46 different sports and hobbies.

Visit one of the Today's outlets nationwide or log on to www.todayssports.com.ph and stock up for your summer escapades. With summer coming in early this year, it's already high time you check out what's in store for the season.

Agrilink 2010 slated in October

OBJECT: TO PROMOTION FOR INTEGRATED Linkage and Development (IALD), a non-government organization catering to the agribusiness industry and sectors, will be holding its 4th year Agrilink 2010 on October 6-8 and most influential trade fair in agriculture, aquaculture and food – April 3rd, Powerlink and Agrilink. The event will highlight good agricultural practices as a way to enhancing our competitive advantage and contributions to sustainable development, agricultural productivity and food security. Agrilink 2010 will be focusing on good agricultural practices for all sectors in agriculture, and for the upcoming smart and eco-friendly practices as a significant component in the development of agribusiness in the Philippines. The event will also be highlighting the latest and most innovative technologies, inputs and enterprises that can improve efficiency, productivity and sustainability of the integrated industries of food, agriculture and aquaculture. For inquiries and/or booth reservations, contact Ruth Jary of Rogelio through 809-4648, 535-8000 and 535-4001, or e-mail ibd.agrilink@gmail.com.

CCAP holds 8th annual conference

THE COLE CHAIR ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (CCAP), A MULTI-sectoral group of companies and professional organizations involved in the supply chain of perishable food products, is holding its 8th annual conference at the Garden Manor Weekend Convention Center in Subic City on June 10 to 11. The conference with the theme "Executive Management Maneuvering in an Era of Non-Political and Environmental Trade Policies" will highlight the challenges and opportunities in this food industry as a result of the new developments, and also a training program conducted by Tim Hemming, political handicapper, as well as the impact of the bilateral and multilateral free trade agreements between the Philippines and other countries such as Asean Free Trade Area and Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement on the local food processing sector. Conference details are available at www.ccapinfo.org.

Whirlpool to hold Warehouse Sale

APPLIANCE POOL HOME APPLIANCES INC., SE HOUSEHOLDS PHILIPPINES, INC. Whirlpool Corporation Sale this May 28 and 29 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the same location in Mayapa corner, Bulacan. Items on sale are Class B units which are brand new appliances but are slightly dented or scratched. Discounts on selected items can go up to 80 percent. All products are covered with a one-year warranty on parts and labor. The Whirlpool Sale will be held at Lot 3 and 5, Block 3, Phase 10 Destination St., Sterling Industrial Park, Libtong, Meycauayan, Bulacan. For more information contact 712-2600.

How to lend money safely

LENDING MONEY IS ALWAYS risky business, regardless of the nature of the transaction (whether it's consumer, the nature of the transacting parties and the transaction itself, and the amounts involved. Whether you are an entrepreneur or SME lending to individuals by the hundreds or thousands; a financial institution offering salary loans to employees; or just a regular Joe or Jane who occasionally gets requests to lend money from friends, relatives and colleagues, you have to be armed with the best practices to safeguard your interest as a lender in all types of credit transactions.

The Center for Global Best Practices has designed a unique program that will enable all types of businesses with local and international credit transactions to protect themselves in their dealings with borrowers. The one-day session, "How Practices to Prevent Lenders to Credit Transactions", scheduled on Friday, June 18, at the Peninsula Manila, is a comprehensive guide to preventive mechanisms and security devices, such as loan documentation, credit risk assessments, enforcement and debt recovery techniques, that lenders should employ in any credit transaction. Expert speakers and practitioners will teach the right approaches, best practice strategies and preventive and remedial actions in handling various credit transactions ranging from real estate and chattel mortgages, trust arrangements, pawnshops, letters of credit, and many more.

This MCLE-accredited program will feature lawyer Rafael A. Morales, managing partner and former head of the Banking, securities and finance department of Romulo, Mabanta, Buenaventura and Sayoc and Atty. Jose Jesus Gerochi, Jr. He is an authority in credit transactions, and has authored two books on commercial law and numerous legal articles. He has also been cited in the Euromoney's Legal Media Group Guide to the world's leading bond and lawyers. He is a member of the New York bar and president-elect of the Inter-Pacific Bar Association. Another speaker is lawyer Hermenegildo T. Pendaliday, partner at Angara Abello Concepcion Regala and Cruz (Accra) Law Offices. An expert in commercial law and litigation, she also has a master of laws degree from Harvard Law School and has the distinction of being a member one bar topnotcher.

Interested participants may call 842-7148 or 59. You may also e-mail program@cbp.ph. Or, log on to http://cbp.ph/mcle.org. Early bird and group discounts are available. For the complete details, registration, and list of the upcoming seminars, visit the website www.cbp.org.

Global ad industry eyes boost from mobile devices

MOSCOW—THE GLOBAL ADVERTISING industry is eager to capitalize on booming use of mobile phones for Internet access as more enhanced devices are coming to the market to get more consumers reachable online.

The trend is promising bumper revenues in future years, especially in markets like Russia where Internet usage is growing rapidly and a forecast to-do-so-by years to come as people's incomes rise and support from oil-based economic growth.

"I think mobile is a fantastic opportunity," Mikesh Arora, Google president of Global Sales, said on the sidelines of an International Advertising Association conference.

"The advent of the iPhone, the Android devices and the Blackberry have finally given people reasons in the savvy to go world [to] start using the mobile data. And as you see that go up, you begin to see the emergence of advertising in those applications," he told Reuters Insider Television.

Data is seen as the main driver of mobile companies' future revenue streams as new-generation technologies develop to allow the transfer of large amounts of information at a high speed.

Top global advertising and marketing chiefs gathered in Moscow for the two-day IAA Congress to consider growth strategies for the $400-billion industry, laser-called for a more approach to consumers, based on a deeper understanding of their needs and the context they are living in.

Essential tool

The mobile phone has become an essential tool for the vast majority of people in the developed world and a growing flat on this path as developing countries like Russia and China, and as the handset is increasingly used to access the Internet, the advertising has to catch up, industry players said.

Google, the online search global leader, announced a $750-million deal in November to buy AdMob, which controls about one-third of the market for putting ads on mobile applications and Web pages.

It's last month Apple announced a new advertising platform for the iPhone and iPod, iAd-bed ad, showing the potential large players believe the market has. Google said Apple's move was evidence of a highly competitive market.

Mobile offers unique opportunities in targeting, understanding a customer behavior, not only what the customer does but where the customer is ... in the particular moment, and that allows to give the customer a very relevant message," Mikhail Gevelyuk, chief commercial officer of Russia's top mobile phone operator MTS, told the conference.

Russia growth

Gevelyuk said the Russian mobile advertising market could grow to $100 million by 2013 from $15 million now, and forecast that this type of advertising will surpass some other ways of advertising in a few years time.

Advertisers are in general bullish on Russia where consumer markets are expected to become again as strong as oil prices are helping the country out of recession.

"We are seeing growth in early stage markets where more people are going on the Internet, and markets with large populations are wonderful places," Google's Arora said.

The number of Internet users is expected to rise to 1 billion worldwide over the next 10 years from about 1.9 billion now, Arora said.

JAPANESE mobile operator NTT DoCoMo president Ryuji Yamada introduces the company's new Windows Mobile-OS smartphone, dynapocket, 7-8 during their customer relations 2010 press preview in Tokyo, on

Reuters

"I think in the next 5 to 6 years 30-50 percent of the studies is going to be consumed on the Web, and if you look at the advertising proportion of the Internet versus the overall ad market, we are still under 10 percent," Yuan the mobile proficiency, it means booming growth of content including advertising distributed via portable devices.

"I believe that for consumers whose the content experience on the mobile is very important. Mobile is a very important platform for customer distribution," Emilio de cassaga, CEO of Mexico's top broadcaster Televisa, told Reuters.

Los Baños' B&B rises ...

From page B1-1

of a place to stay or change their clothes at, so we first had the idea that we later turned into resting," says Joy.

The main hall was converted into a food and breakfast area. But Lim says two rooms and one such coothers able house has private.

It was again due to guests' demand that Joy considered going into food service.

"Guests were asking for catering services to be included in the package. I've loved food. Even I had to find a good chef," Joy recalls rolling herself.

Her search for a chef led to one the weekend's ambiance ended when in a optimal retreat, it was as if 'God's will' that her roommate had known trained hotel-trained cooks and later introduced her to one.

In late last year, Lim's Orchard Inn-bed its catering services and opened Cafeline for walk in visitors.

The couple also added another facility for 30-people conferences or business meetings.

An overnight stay at Lim's Orchard costs P1,500 to P2,100 per room, inclusive of breakfast.

Dining as outdoor activity at Mt. Makiling is April, participants were housed at Lim's Orchard.

"We had some guests who found the rates good, perhaps because they were used to Manila rates (which were higher) for more accommodations," says Joy.

She says they were planning to build a pool and another conference facility next. However, "and recovering to their loans, again."

Cafeline, with its food and breakfast, is open for walk-in guests Monday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., but advance reservations are required for larger groups and functions.

Reservations could be made through Joy at 0917.5899479 or 3810s 3921.5336808. Her 0910-5490658 or e-mails to joy.villegas09 @yahoo.com and arnoldalo06@yahoo.com.ph

Marketing RX

From page B1-1

market share, the risk lovers more consumers still rising to the competition.

With all the difficulty and risk, why would a consumer entertain the idea of brand consolidation?

Among experienced marketers, there are two most cited reasons. The first says that the history of persistently unbranded brands spelled trouble for the company and eventually the disappearance of one or more of such unbranded brand cases. So if eventually the two will consolidate anyway, why not now when you can run your house early?

The second reason points to cases that successfully consolidated into a primary brand but this came about only over an extended period of time. One well-documented case in point is Nestle in the UK involving its 2 main brands, Contadina and Buitoni. The merging decision favored Buitoni that was asked to absorb the to-be-folded Contadina brand.

In implementing the decision, Nestle moved very gradually and in stages. It started by bringing Buitoni to the Contadina packages as Contadina's endorser brand. This clearly signaled to the trade and market that Buitoni was then the primary brand while Contadina was the sub-brand. After two years, the Contadina brand name was dropped completely and only the Buitoni name remained. Throughout this period of transition, Nestle ran to it that it maintained parent company leadership for Buitoni Contadina and to the end for Buitoni.

So there's your Marketing Rx for going about brand consolidation.

Keep your questions coming. Send them to me at: Marlen.ngelangel@yhl.biz. God bless!

BUSINESS Friday

NBA goes for the slam dunk in RP market

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

EUROPE, AFRICA, SOUTH AMERICA and the rest of Asia are giddy with excitement over the Fifa World Cup to be held in South Africa this June, but Filipinos are largely oblivious to the football frenzy surrounding the world's biggest single sporting event, which comes only once every four years.

It's the planet's once upon, after all, and basketball-crazy Filipinos are bound to, to every shot, rebound, assist and steal that will decide the fate of the last four teams of the National Basketball Association with the chance to hoist the NBA championship trophy.

Passion

Will the small but spunky Phoenix Suns led by two-time Most Valuable Player Steve Nash best John Wayne's Los Angeles Lakers or will the veteran Boston Celtics behind Kevin Garnett, Paul Pierce and Ray Allen impose their will over the Orlando Magic resting on the massive shoulders of Dwight Howard?

"For Filipinos of all ages and income groups are so passionate about basketball, Keith Levy, senior vice president and managing director of NBA Asia, who says this devotion to the NBA teams and their players makes the Philippines one of the most important markets for the NBA in Asia.

"There's an incredible understanding and passion for what's happening (in basketball) around the world," Levy tells Business Friday in an interview.

SCOTT LEFT: NBA Asia SVP and managing director

As such, Levy says it is just right for the NBA to look for more ways to bring the brand closer to the hearts and minds of Filipinos, allowing one of the United States' greatest exports to touch their lives in ways other than just through the NBA games aired on cable.

NBA, for example, brought to the Philippines its NBA Cares program, a community outreach program implemented with the help of NBA ambassadors such as its members, players and retired NBA greats.

Coaching clinics

Under this program, Miami Heat head coach Erik Spoelstra, who is part Filipino, came here via a series of basketball clinics it opened the message of sportsmanship among young players. And other coaches like Spoelstra are expected to follow him to the Philippines courtesy of the NBA.

"The popularity of the game (the games as at the NBA is) and ways to give back to the community," explains Levy.

In the aftermath of tropical storm Ondoy in September last year that put almost the entire Metro Manila under floodwaters, NBA Cares stepped in to refurbish a basketball court in a community in Marikina, which was one of the hardest hit by the storm, and the children there were awesome with gratitude about they could go back to playing their favorite game.

"It is really all about making a lasting impact on the community," says Levy, who oversees the development and expansion of the NBA's branding and basketball initiatives in NBA Asia markets outside China and India.

Then in April this year, NBA and partner 18 Sound Studios conducted the third run of the 3x NBA Philippines, a free youth basketball development program open to boys aged 12-14 years old.

The top 48 basketball players who participated in the 3x NBA Regional Selection Camps held in Manila, Cebu and Davao were brought to Antipolo three-day camp hosted by 3x NBA coach Frank Lopez and the "best eight" camper Levy formed the 3x NBA Philippine All-Star Team and entered themselves a stakes to watch a NBA game in the United States.

NBA Legend BJ Armstrong, a three-time champion with the Chicago Bulls, and Philippine Basketball Association legends Benjie Paras, Jimmy Mariano Perez and Elmer Cabahug participated in the training camp.

Then in August, NBA hopes to bring to the Philippines its NBA Fit program. It is under the NBA Cares program and will tackle health, education and nutrition for both parents and children.

Developed by the IJS to fight the growing obesity and overweight and lack of physical exercise, especially among children, the program seeks to convey a positive message of leading a healthy and productive lifestyle.

Added components

"There are many other components of the NBA that we have not launched yet in the Philippines, but we are getting there to further promote the NBA brand in the Philippines," says Levy, who was in the country last month with Armstrong to take part in the Jr. NBA training camp.

Levy says plans are underway to build a NBA arena developed to suit the specific needs of Filipinos, and to store NBA licensed merchandise and hold more NBA events.

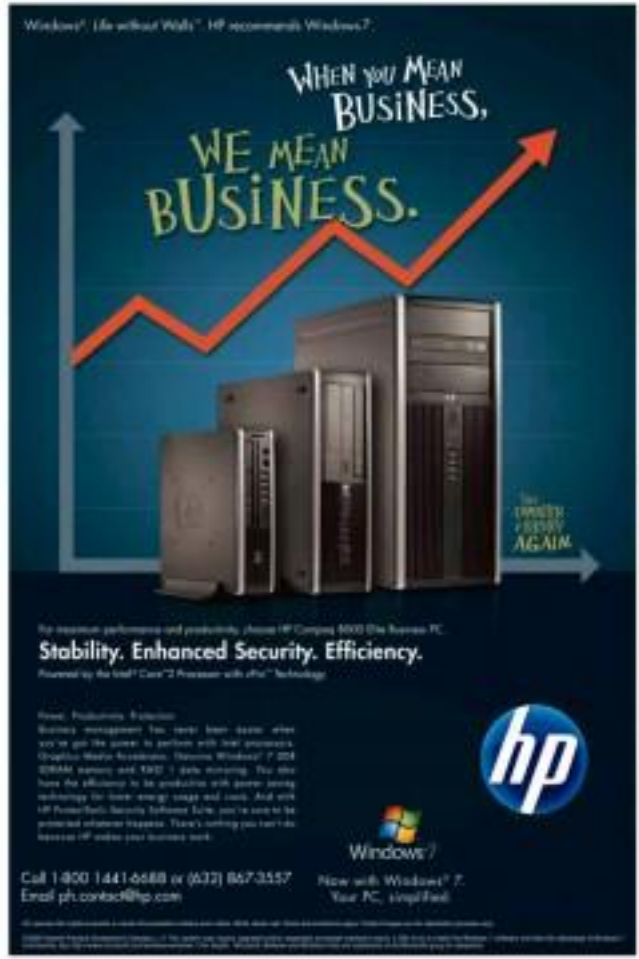
There are also ongoing negotiations to set up a permanent NBA facility in the Philippines in partnership with a real estate developer, which will have courts, stores and theater rooms with the NBA as the main theme.

The possibilities are endless and Levy hopes that one day, an NBA game will be held in the Philippines and that a Filipino will eventually join the ranks of big-caliber NBA players.

"It will only be a matter of time," he says.

But in the meantime, the 61-year-old NBA is hard at work to make the brand bigger than it already is in the Philippines. *With a report from Alfonso Tenio S. Lasta*

> "There's an incredible understanding and passion for what's happening (in basketball) around the world"



When to consolidate brands in your brand portfolio?

MARKETING Rx

Dr. Ned Roberto
& Andy Roberto

Q: THANK YOU FOR LAST week's column on brand deletion. We have been in the situation you wrote to your column but we've postponed for the longest time doing what you wrote. From your column, we now at least have the logical basis for taking the necessary action.

We're writing because we have another policy issue but still under the brand portfolio platform. We have two brands in the same PM. Or (but moving consumer goods) category (we're sorry that we can't name the brands) that we have positioned for different purposes or use. But over the years, our annual U&I (usage, attitude, image) survey has consistently shown that these target consumers continue to regard the two as no different from one another.

The two brands have different ad agencies. They are result from mergers/acquisitions because the two brands have small, less than 10 percent market share each. In fact, the two together have a total market share of less than 15 percent. But each of the brand's ad agency claims (what persuasively that it will take time to build each brand's positioning since both were launched only four years ago). Each agency wants us to continue building each brand.

In its last meeting, our MarCom (Marketing Communications) asked us to explore what many sensible options than continuing "to invest in brand building that is going nowhere after four long years." When we read your brand deletion column last week, we thought you might be able to help us. Please help.

A: Yes, we believe we can offer you some help. We do use our diagnostic and Marketing Rx's from our seminar series on "branding brand positioning and brand equity" where we take up brand orphans specifically the issue of brand addition, deletion and consolidation.

We have to say at the outset that if you think in your presentation of the issue brand that brand consolidation should be less difficult than brand deletion, this is a mistaken impression. Our international consulting experience has told that exactly the reverse.

To begin with, there are two brand managers each in charge of one of the two brands. Many years ago, this was the situation at ABC's two coffee brands—Great Taste (with 14 percent market share) and Mmm! (5 with 12 percent market share). While Marketing tried deliberately the two brands, year after year, market research found that the two had an clear differentiation in the consumers' minds. Suppose that at that point in time, ABC were to consider consolidation, how would ABC Marketing proceed?

First, Marketing has to decide who between the two brand managers will head the consolidated brand and who will be out. Note that the two managers are doing almost equally well. If one of the two has to leave, whom will Marketing place him? Plus several other sensitive HR questions. So the merging of the two brands is easily said than done.

Secondly, how about the consumers of each of the two brands? Once the two brands are combined into one, the move will drive away consumers from the brand dropped. You cannot be sure how many of the consumers of this dropped brand will go to the brand forward by the merging and how many the competition will pick up. It's all up to the consumers of the dropped brand. *With key*

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LIFESTYLE Fashion & Beauty

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Luxury jeweler renews vow to 'save the children'

BULGARI HAS CHOSEN TO RENEW its support for Save the Children throughout 2010. Save the Children is the largest independent international organization for the defense and championing of children's rights, present in over 100 countries around the world.

Nicola Bulgari, vice chair of the Bulgari Group, announced that Bulgari renewed its partnership and commitment to the organization during a Bulgari auction held at Christie's in New York on Dec. 8, 2009.

The evening represented the grand finale of the laborious bold

SAVE the Children ring

throughout the year that celebrated the brand's 125th anniversary, including the culmination of the company's major fundraising project to support Save the Children. As a result of this initiative, Bulgari was able to raise over $9 million in 2009 to support the Save the Children Campaign—$666,000 of which went to the children of Haiti.

In February 2010 Bulgari launched a special ring and pendant for the campaign that quickly became the symbol

JULIUS C.

How Dita Sandico Ong transformed 'Ondoy'-damaged fabrics into exquisite garments

DAZ HANDS: sampling of designs and fabrics from her 15-year career for her May 30 gala, also a whole-day wellness bazaar that runs to her Bicolano heritage. At right, black bustier with lakit accent

ONCE thought to be too "artistic," as she used fabrics usually sourced local-only with her multiplatinum wear, Ong has evolved her repertoire to include chic casuals and even office wear. Left, one-shoulder dress with Irish linen detail

By Charlie V. Marcelo

IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR, DITA Sandico-Ong's house in Providence Village in Marikina City was among the casualties of Typhoon "Ondoy," her dues and records following the flood, the fashion designer's house was under water, along with an entire stockroom of treasured handwoven fabrics, the medium on which Ong is known for.

It only seemed natural for her to have discarded the ruined materials, bales and bolts of which bore the painful and horrific drags of that unnamed pile. But Ong isn't one to do things predictably.

On May 30, guests at her 25th-year gala show at S. Venue in Makati City will see how she has fashioned—or "recycled," as she likes to put it—those flood-ravaged textiles into exquisite garments.

"Why throw [them away]? I decided I could still do so much," she said. Ong has stripped the fabrics and woven them banig-style into bustiers and accent materials for her 30-piece gala collection, which she's pleased with the outcome.

Ong, who's also running 31 on her show date, isn't known for taking the easy route. For 25 years, she has been championing natural handwoven fabrics, which are signature—and not-so-well-understood material, and therefore unpopular, among local consumers. But pushing for not-so-subtle fashion through Filipino fabrics and generating livelihood for the communities that make them have been her longtime advocacy.

"It has always been an uphill battle for me," she said, not without a hint of resignation, "since the beginning, we've been doubting with the same challenges. There are the valuables. There's nature and how it affects us. But we deal with it... We go back a step further. For instance, we can't uproot the Manguyan from their community. So we go to where they are."

"THERE'S still so much to do, so many things on his mental sheet," says Bro. Sandico Ong, as she marks her silver year in fashion.

She's woven them 'banig'-style into corsets and accent materials for her 25th-year gala collection on May 30

TWIS banig-style narrow bustier-bodice with a banana-fabric wrap is a product of the designer's Ondoy-"recycled" fabrics.

Costly process

Ong has adopted recurring communities in Cotabato and the Mangyans of Mindoro that provide her with fabrics. She also works with weavers in Bulacan (for pina fine), in her home province of Bicol for abel (dita and pinilian) and the T'boli tribe of Lake Sebu (Linukab). Samplings of these fabrics will be seen at her retrospective gala.

The Cotabato weavers fully create the banana fiber, of which those sculptural but softly wraps ubiquitous in many formal and Filipiniana events are made—the one design that Ong is possibly best known for. This has been a costly process, but for Ong, it's all worth it.

Proof of her efforts, she said, is the warm reception of her market overseas. She has shown in Amsterdam and twice in Paris. She now also has buyers in Italy that her biggest markets abroad are Sweden and Denmark. "The Scandinavians think it's very exotic," she said.

Back home, however, "exotic" was a drawback when Ong was starting out. They thought her look was too "ethnic" as she used fabrics usually associated only with formal Filipiniana wear. People also thought her clothes were too expensive. But she has evolved her look, with chic resort and even office wear added to her repertoire.

"I think more Filipinos understand material and fabrics now. They understand that it's costlier to produce them," Ong said. "My wraps [in Bankal] are selling very well here, so I guess we're okay. The market is growing bigger, and we're making better products."

She has observed that more local designers are also switching to natural fabric, too. If some, however, are doing this as a token exercise, Ong believes it doesn't diminish what she and some few others have been doing.

"I've never worked that way, that's why I've adopted communities to make the fabrics... You know, if we get to influence younger designers, then that's good. Everyone is looking for soft boldness."

Ong has been using her fabrics under-worn, and hasn't found cause to call this an orders disappointment. "I'm a fashion designer, first and foremost, not a fabric designer. The more natural progression for me is to do home furnishings with these fabrics."

BANANA tube top with flower appliques and geometric-cutout skirt

Experimentation

Creating new weaves and fabrics has been the result of her constant experimentation. She has witnessed how weaving techniques have evolved. There has been much improvement, she said.

"It's keeping up with the changes that's the challenge. Before, buying wax a problem, but not anymore. The weavers are no longer loose."

Right now, she's eyeing to work with her grownup children, aged 25 and 22. She's excited to see day collaborate with her daughter, an industrial designer. But she's in no rush, Ong said. She's giving them room to do what they want. If one day they take over her trade, she'll happily take on the retiree.

"I've always been free [to do things] all the time," Ong said. "Does others scare during the same thing, I move on like you know, there's still so much to do, and so many things to be excited about... Whatever comes, I've always kept my head above water. I ride the wave. You always have to be at the crest of the wave."

Chic, colorful bags

MANAGING cool hues and bags with panache

SHOES FROM "CRUSH!" hinged for fun. Over to "Clueless" land lots of it. Casual Luxury event suing about it.

Now, Kipling spins it makes it with their Enchilled Spring/Summer 2012 Ultra Chic collection.

Inspired by the cool girls of Ipanema beach, it's Ultra Chic provides anti-ready for the style hungry—think effortlessly selcoop styling and bold color combinations with the crazy-chic confidence to pull it off. The beach-shimmer fiberglass and transparent yellow fabric make for a truly fun and youthful collection.

Level: get lost in the carnival mood, grab Or sling Big-Hope, travel and memories into the spacious Ultra purple Journey and head to the beach for that fun. The monobble piano points make this hot beach-cool-on collection a standout.

Ipanema, Ikon, Miami Beach—wherever you're heading this summer, it'll-like Dilli's funky new transparent fabric will make sure you linger out at the beach in style. The eye-

the flanges in ghost white, or Twila in jersey grey and tuscan yellow.

Available at Kipling stores in SM Mall of Asia, SM Megamall, SM City North Edsa, The Block, Robinson's Place Manila, SM City Pampanga, SM City Cebu, Iloilo and Davao.

'I love milk' photo contest

IN CELEBRATION OF WORLD MILK DAY, TETRA PAK HOLDS the I Love Milk photo contest, with the theme, "Enjoy the goodness of milk anytime, anywhere!" With this contest, consumers get to show their creativity by submitting photos of people drinking liquid milk in Tetra Pak cartons.

To join, visit www.ilovemillcontest.com and upload your photo entry together with a corresponding title and short description.

Submission of entries is until 12 noon of May 30. Top 30 entries will be part of the exhibit during the Tetra Pak's World Milk Day event on June 1 at Market! Market! Mall Activity Center.

The grand prize winner will get P25,000 in cash; second prize, P15,000 cash; third prize, P10,000 cash. All winners will also receive a one-month supply of liquid milk in Tetra Pak cartons and a Samsung digital camera.

Visit www.ilovemillcontest.com.

BINGHAM HALLOT and a Chanel one-kloss

CHANEL RESORT 2011. Denim and lush sequences, and hearts mark one-over bikinis gummy bear pastels

CHANEL striped sleeveless ruled shift. Mens-named bag.

SHAPMANDUS SAFTAN in printed chemise crepe de chine

"REMEMBER NOW," a short film written and directed by Karl Lagerfeld, opened the 2011 Resort Collections.

The next big thing in fashion—the short film

Chanel and Dior debuted their latest collections with a mini piece of cinema

By Lory Lanzar
Contributor

SEEKING THE SUMMER. At the showing of Chanel's Resort collection in St. Tropez and Dior's Cruise collection in Shanghai just days ago, the season and fashion accessory was not a bag or a shoe, but a short film.

Karl Lagerfeld wrote and directed "Remember Now," starring his signature 2011 looks for beach-based beautiful people, with Georgia May Jagger (Mick's youngest daughter) as a Brigitte Bardot clone, his current boyfriend Baptiste Giabiconi pursuing an Alain Delon and Karl himself in an all-white suit.

The clothes shown in the film were short, seductive and drenched with youth's sweat and recklessness.

"Youth is a short-term lease, it is not renewable" was the punchline. The show that followed had models promoting bandeau-on-the-beach-while-wearing-a-rich-man-of-'70s-prints and silhouettes like flowing summer frocks, jersey pantsuits and denim worked in patchwork.

Even the lonely, braid-trimmed suits found their midriff and showed off dazzling thighs.

Apparently, Karl the visionary wants to connect with the YouTube generation. Knowing that the red carpet has all but played itself out, he seized the moment on these short films—the latest fashion accessory. It's the path to bring visual excitement and emotion to branding. Lagerfeld knows this will be immediately absorbed by Facebook, Twitter and innumerable fashion blogs.

Familiar tension

Not to be left behind, in Shanghai the next evening, the House of Dior led by owner Bernard Arnault showed Daniel Lindin's "Lady Blue Shanghai," set in the ancient quarter of the city amid the explosive excitement of the World Expo.

It's a short film with the familiar scenic tension generated by a glamorous Marion Cotillard with a literally smoking Dior bag. Sexy followed a parade of French fashion by John Galliano, inspired by the New Wave Cinema of the '60s. They were pretty creations that brought to mind Catherine Deneuve and Jean Paul Belmondo—pastoral and Pop Art dresses festooned with the house codes of bows, rose prints and Prince of Wales checks, the latter couches of Christian Dior.

But what lingers in the mind are the powerful images, the mini movies that will live on in memory longer than a banal catalogue or a glossy advertorial. (The movies are shown at www.chanel.com and www.dior.com).

Luxury brands are on to something here, by turning advertising campaigns into three-dimension short films that can be viewed on a smartphone or an iPad. It is, quite simply, the next big thing.

RUFFLE-LAY THING. John Galliard's pretty baby doll

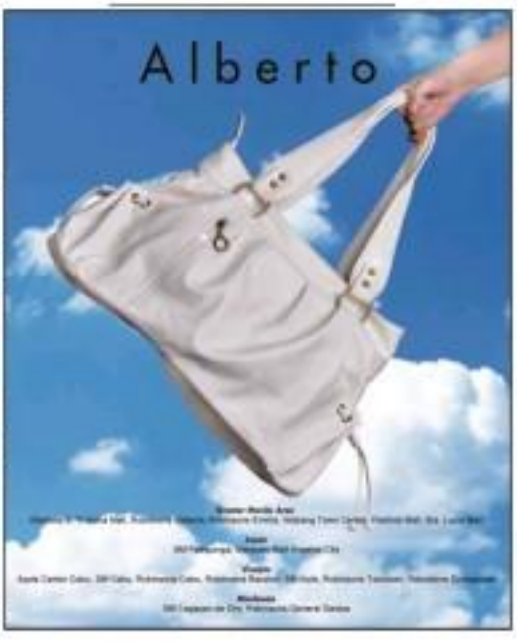
DIOR'S 50s I CRUISE. Suit in black and white leather

DIOR'S LOLITA. '60s day dress in pink

CHRISTIAN DIOR'S look dress with bands of ruffles

MARINE STRIPES. '60s sweet by Galliano for Dior

RE-EMBROIDERED LACE. A day-to-night feminine look



CINEMA FOR CHANEL. Saint Tropez beachfront cafe was the setting for Lagerfeld's '70s-flavored collection.

ACTOR Ben Stiller and Francesco Trapani, CEO of the Bulgari Group, with the children of Haiti

Luxury jeweler renews vow . . .

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pair contributors of their economic mite to Save the Children. Both items are made in silver, paying tribute to the company's founder Sotirio Bulgari, who started as a silversmith. Save the Children's logo is engraved inside each piece.

The items will continue to be sold throughout 2010 in all Bulgari boutiques worldwide, mini-department stores and on the Bulgari's e-commerce website (USA).

This year an additional $100,000 was raised and donated toward the Best Seller Campaign (Bulgari.org), Stiller is one of the Bulgari for Save the Children Campaign supporters since the inception in 2009.

On April 11, Francesco Trapani, CEO of the Bulgari Group, visited Haiti to see firsthand the progress that Bulgari is supporting with the funds raised. Trapani joined Demi Moore, Susan Sarandon, Hoda Mitri, Gerard Butler, Olivia Wilde, Ben Stiller and Abi director Paul Haggis who were also visiting Children-related areas of Haiti to support and raise awareness.

Together with Stiller, Trapani visited the Save the Children school in Léogâne, in the north of the country, where funds raised by Stiller and Bulgari together are being used to bring water and new classrooms to the village school.

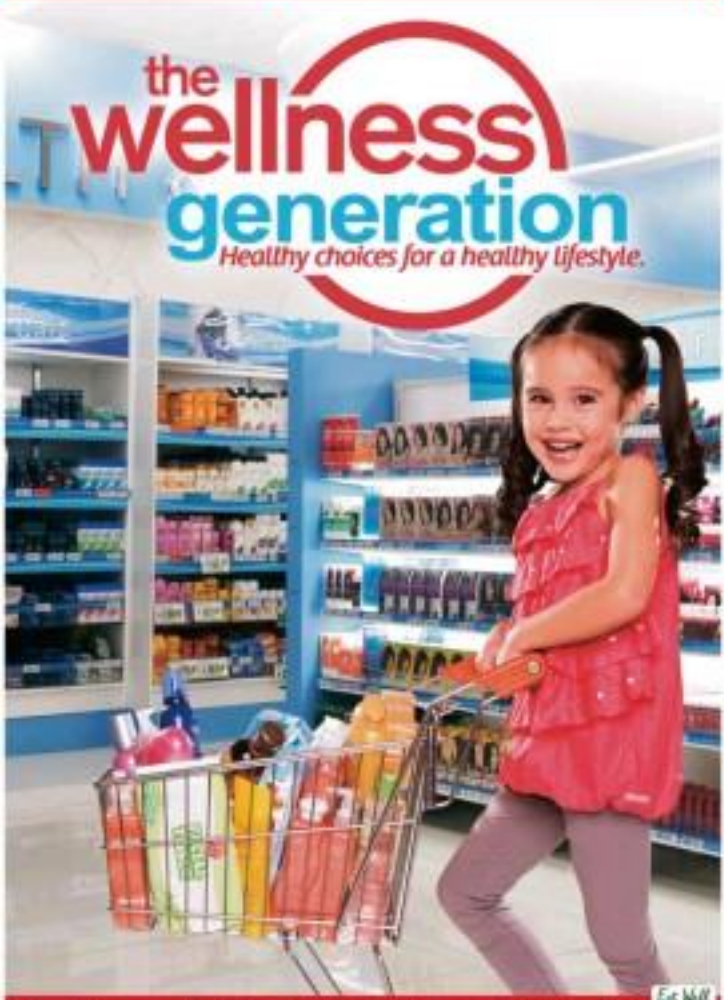
Bulgari is one of the global players on the luxury market. In 2009 the group posted a turnover of 926.6 million euros. Its product portfolio ranges from jewels and watches to accessories and perfumes.

Save the Children is the world's largest independent organization for children, making a difference to children's lives in over 120 countries. From emergency relief to long-term development, Save the Children helps children achieve a happy, healthy and secure childhood.

The Bulgari Save the Children ring and pendant are available in Bulgari boutiques located in Greenbelt 4 (tel. 7286081-522 and 6317) at Ayala Avenue Center (8912224891).

Robinsons Supermarket

the wellness generation
Healthy choices for a healthy lifestyle.



Eat Well Spend Less

Creative writing workshop for kids

CREATIVE WRITING CLASSES FOR children and young adults age 8-18 is ongoing until June 19. Classes are divided according to age maturity levels of participants. The workshop hopes to tap children and young adults who have the gift of writing as well as those who simply want to improve their writing skills. It includes techniques in discovering one's writing style, strengthening one's style and applying this style in various forms of composition such as essays, short stories, plays, reviews and journalistic articles. Call 8-16826, 69 MGB6 e-mail shekeina.tan@yahoo.com; visit Penmour Forest, 163 Legaspi St., Legaspi Village, Makati.

Mall anniversary

Ilo Ilo Mall celebrates its 19th year with a talent competition today. Runs to May 9 and shows featuring the "Star Search" Final 5 winners until 1:00 on May 22 and Pinoy Pop Superstar's Bryan Termoto's album promo on May 23.

Bridal fair

Hotel Kimberly on Amadeo Road, Tagaytay, launches its wedding packages in a bridal and special events expo to be held at the SMX Convention Center May 22-23. Couples who sign up will get a 10-percent discount on the packages. Interested parties who wish to book as part of the venue can avail of Hotel Kimberly's ongoing lead time treat promo rates.

Past life regression session

As part of healing therapy ECHOsings, the wellness program of ECHOstore Sustainable Lifestyle, will offer a new off group session on May 22, 4-6 p.m., at ECHOsings Community Center, Penthouse, Century Plaza, 839 Pedro St., Legaspi Village, Makati City. The session will include tapping the subconscious to visualization of possible past life connections. Visit www.echosings.echostore.ph; call 0906-5060848; e-mail echosingsworkshop@gmail.com.

Cantonese food fest

Three award-winning chefs from one of Hong Kong's top restaurant chains, the Super Star Seafood restaurant, will land over the kitchen of Intercontinental Manila Dreamwall, Makati, from May 28 for a month-long promotion of Cantonese cuisine. The guest chefs will showcase their over a month-long stint and lunch on May 29 from 12 a.m. The guest chefs have won in various culinary competitions and food shows. For the promo running until May 30, they prepare a menu that includes: Stonefish Prepared Two Ways, Braised Sea Cucumber in Dinosaur Bone Soup, Steamed Sea Bass Fillet with Lobster Salad with Pomelo, Crispy Tiger Prawn set on Fresh Tomato Mint Fried Vermicelli with Dried Scallop and Bean Sprouts.

Tourism awardees named

On its 21st Tourism Personality Award, Shod Makati has chosen the recipients of this year's Mid Makati 21st Tourism Personality Awards, who will be honored at a dinner to be held on May 28, during the 36th Shod Asian Congress. Shod International Makati is an association open for tourism enthusiasts/organizations or tourism personalities who have lived up and contributed to the growth of Philippine tourism and travel industry.

Shades of crimson run through tie-dye knits, tailored jackets, V-shaped pants and accessories at Bottega Veneta

Red-hot

FOR SPRING 2010, BOTTEGA Veneta explores the dynamic between considered and reckless in a man's wardrobe, a combination that runs from the precise architecture of a tailored jacket to the kinetic ease of athletic clothes.

The focal point of the collection is a pair of V-shaped pants, full at the top and tapering to a narrow cuff. Paired with a deep-plum-colored jacket, a crisp shirt with a stand collar, and a pair of sturdy, round-toed shoes, these pants create a new silhouette, one that is both bold and breezy.

A turquoise palette adds to the jaunty mood; shades of lemon, red, crimson, watermelon and black-and-gladiolus are paired with black, truffle, army green and a warm cream.

Colors are combined in ways that fracture the silhouette, injecting an idiosyncratic energy. Color runs through the collection in other ways, too—in vertical stripes, tie-dyed knits and viscose, wire-dyed prints and vibrantly hued accessories. The range of fabrics includes wool and cotton gabardines, tropical twistless, cotton twill, leather

Red-hot

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weight piece-dyed woven, via raw-and-linen knits, rubber-ized jersey, viscose jersey and nylons treated to withstand the wind and the rain. Leathers such as nappa, pinskin, suede and perforated suede are worked-and-reworked to perfection.

To balance the silhouette, shoes are substantial, with a round toe and a refined but solid sole, made to be worn without socks. Mirroring the progression of the clothing, shoes are sharp loafers of bright-glossy calf, close-woven Italian suede with a super sleek sole.

The season's bags are characterized by rich color and dazzling craftsmanship. The newest shape is a small, flat shopper, sleek and functional, our most classic. Bottega Veneta's campaign to eliminate the overstuffed purse pushes.

A stuffed or ultra-thin washed nappa is roomy and virtually weightless. Shoppers and duffels predominate, the shapes soft and clean, the workmanship meticulous, versatility enhanced by grommets that attach convertible straps and handles. Of special note: a new, limited-edition men's Cabat made of tie-dyed cigar-colored nubuckskin.

"We're always looking to extend the options that exist between the tailored suit and the most casual clothes," said creative director Tomas Maier. "For spring, we wanted to offer clothes that are particularly individualistic. Changing the shape of the pants and breaking the silhouette with color add energy, even a headiness, that feels invigorating."

Bottega Veneta is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists, Inc. (SSI), at Greenbelt 5, Ayala Center, Makati and Rustan's Makati.

Jojie Lloren bridal show in Iloilo

AWARD-WINNING fashion designer Jojie Lloren will showcase his bridal designs at the "Wedding Rituals Bridal Show" on May 28, 5 p.m., at the Fountain Area of Robinsons Place Iloilo.

The fashion show is a prelude to a nine-day fair that will gather materials for a positive wedding day.

Lloren is the former president of the Young Designers Guild and the Fashion Design Council of the Philippines.

As young designer, he won the Philippine Young Designers Competition and the Dermacen International Fashion Awards.

Denim nation

Guess zeroes in on its rich denim heritage for its Spring 2010 campaign

RENOWNED FASHION photographer Raphael Mazzucco shoots Guess Spring 2010 campaign, against the backdrop reminiscent of the old west in the Malibu/Agoura Ranch, Placerita Canyon and Santa Clarita Valley in California, in line with its campaign theme with tribal influences that focuses on Guess's rich denim heritage and the raw sensuality that has characterized the brand for the past few decades.

Modeled by Caroline Stanbury (Guess model for fall 2009), Vanessa Rhode, Jacey Elphick and Brian Jordan, timeless denim pieces were mixed with suede, dizzy floral prints and blazers in muted tones, which popped against natural earth tones and vivid blues and greens of nature, telling a story that meshes back with the Guess heritage brand.

Other highlights of the collection are loose-draped tunics, western prairie-inspired blouses with fringe detailing for women, while vintage paisley prints and ragged denim shirts are mixed with men's classic denims.

Under the direction of Paul Marciano, Guess's creative and chief executive officer, the company manages to maintain the brand as the leader in the denim and contemporary market place.

"We strive to develop and put out a collection that allows our customers and potential customers to escape from every day life and into a world of discovery" he said.

"Over the years, Guess has become synonymous with freedom, desire and fashion. The campaign is a perfect reflection of everything Guess stands for."

PHOTOGRAPHER Raphael Mazzucco shoots the summer campaign.

DENIM on denim reflects Guess American heritage.

Bags to put a smile on your face

LeSportsac collaborates with Katharina Leuzinger for its Spring 2010 Artist in Residence collection

By Stefanie Cabal

KATHARINA LEUZINGER has been delivering fast, cheerful and whimsical graphic prints to the world since 2006.

Projects such as the now Windows7 desktop set, figurines for Rimfrost Inc. and the limited-edition packaging for Kenzo perfume have landed the Zurich-raised and London-schooled designer and illustrator a growing international following.

Prestigious title

Recently, Leuzinger became the newest addition to LeSportsac's prestigious title, Artist in Residence, by creating limited-edition designs for the popular American lifestyle brand known for its lightweight bags with quirky prints.

LeSportsac has done unique and equally successful collaborations with heavyweight designers such as Italian artist Simone Legno of The Famous Trademarks brand, and London-based Pili Lapin, of the eulogistically fashionable bunnies.

"We have decided to be a little more cutting-edge with our designs, and we wanted to help designers who are just starting out on their career," explained Richard Ankiewicz, LeSportsac's sales director, on his visit to Manila to celebrate said newcomer. LeSportsac's Artist in Residence.

"Leuzinger has a lot to offer as you can see in her designs," Ankiewicz added. "She studied at Central St. Martins College of Art and Design, a famous design school in London with a very high reputation. Just to get in there, you have to showcase and demonstrate real talent and creativity."

Childlike creations

Leuzinger's colorful, whimsical creations come to life for the Snackville and House Boat collection—cute houses with funny character faces, bunny ears and mismatches, clouds sometimes having arms and legs, dolphins. They can instantly put a smile on anyone's face and evoke childhood days.

Stories

In an interview, Leuzinger said she loved the fact that the characters are not very obvious at first glance.

"Elements such as the whichever could be seen as eyes. It's exciting to imagine a face or personality in something that might not be perceived as such by somebody else. It's like seeing animals in the clouds, and it is quite personal," she said.

Growing up, Leuzinger often visited Japan, which had a great impact on her childhood memories.

"My love for character design and vibrant rainbow colors must have been born there," she said. She is also an avid collector of children's picture books, as she draws inspiration from them.

"They make me happy and content," she said.

The Snackville and House Boat collections fit well in LeSportsac's plethora of designs, with its playful air.

Fun, casual and not to overwhelm a brand," said Ankiewicz.

"You can be in a train or waiting for your flight and you don't get bored when you look at Leuzinger's prints. Each time you get to see them, the figures have a story to tell."

Which is exactly Leuzinger's aim. "To give you happy thoughts when you are in the train on a cold and grey morning."

LeSportsac is exclusively available at Rustan's Makati and Rustan's Shangri-La

HOUSE BOAT'S Girl Talk tote bag

SNACKVILLE'S Double Trouble tote

HOUSE BOAT Play Date Crossbody

HOUSE BOAT backpack

MAGICAL backpack in House Boat print

DOUBLE Trouble satchel in Heart House

Casual in linen

WHEN THE TEMPERATURE rises, linen fabrics are the way to go. Its main Republic has a wide selection of fashionable clothing made of linen that's breathable, durable and versatile for both men and women.

For cool, effortless looks for men, colorful linen shirts are a must, in shades of red, orange, blue and green. For weekend brunches to weddings at the beach, choose from vibrant prints to embroidery which that fit perfectly on the body.

For the ladies, there are versatile and flattering silhouettes appropriate for summer mornings, from pants to skirts, dresses, to short-sleeve styles, which can easily be used from day to evening. A must for ladies is the Linen wrap, a sweet blend of 84 percent linen and 46 percent viscose that makes it soft and airy to the touch. Also choose from floral floral prints or bold ethnic tribal designs all inspired by our color's heritage. Wear as light beach cover-up or to add flair to a casual day look, this lightweight piece gives that fit and touch to linen wear.

Visit Banana Republic May 1-31 and get an exclusive Rampe in linen printed with a corresponding Scented 15 percent discount offer. Banana Republic is exclusively distributed in the Philippines by Casual Clothing Specialties Inc. (CCSI), a subsidiary of Ecstasy Specialties Inc., and is available at Greenbelt 5 and Rustan's Department Store, Makati City.

COLORED linen top and khaki pantsuit sets

SOLID linen in vintage blue, white and grey

LOOSE crisp and comfy white.

Lilly Pulitzer supports friends at the World Wildlife Fund

LILLY PULITZER'S SPRING 2010 collection dedicated its collection to promote a greener world, with its colorful prints inspired by the flora and fauna around us. It aims to prove that you don't have to learn Mother Nature in order to wear it. Check out its latest animal-inspired prints, like cute pandas on its signature sleeveless shift dresses, to support friends at the World Wildlife Fund.

What started as a juice stand business in Palm Beach 50 years ago, Lilly's business hit big when she accidentally designed a shift dress to camouflage the stains from squeezing the juice. Customers loved her dress and soon Lilly was selling shirt-tail hem juice. She decided to stop squeezing and focus solely on selling her "Lillys."

Before long, Jackie Kennedy began wearing Lillys. Then, of course, everyone wanted one and Lilly Pulitzer became a fashion sensation. Throughout the '60s and '70s, the Lilly Pulitzer line was the uniform of the office set at play. Lilly Pulitzer stores sprung up in favorite resort towns of the period and Lilly's pink and green colors became the beacons of this resort lifestyle.

Today Lilly Pulitzer offers apparel for ladies, children and men, as well as ladies' shoes, accessories and gifts. Lilly Pulitzer is sold in major department stores, including Neiman Marcus, Nordstrom and Bloomingdale's, as well as upscale specialty shops and clubs nationwide. Its popularity continues to grow among those who knew it years ago and those who have just discovered its timeless line.

Lilly Pulitzer is exclusively distributed at Rustan's Makati.

PRINTS design in signature shift dress

LILLY Pulitzer Tee/Tee family in orange and pink

TRICOLOR maxi dress for summer

Hail the magic tank top

By Pam Pastor

Diane Von Furstenberg brought magic into my life—in the form of a small tank top that surprisingly fit

THIS MAGICAL STORY began four years ago in Singapore, where I was sent to cover the Fashion Festival. It was a colorful experience, rife with good fashion (Topshop Unique/Topman Design, Missoni) and bad (a bright) show featuring one horrendous gown after another—there were enough ruffles, slits, dicontinues and pink bows to give anyone a headache). Plus, there was a total scramble for good seats, an array of pre- and post-show parties and a lot of shopping.

The Diane von Furstenberg show was by far the best one, and it was clear people knew it. Even the cocktails area was more energized—cameras flashed everywhere and people were more dressed up than usual. Minutes after the show started, I was hooked with Boots of Mode in Chaotica.

But one downsides stamped with DVF's lips logo and lip shaped shoulder purses with chocolate and cranberry filling made rounds in the venue, each delightful morsel ready for the taking.

At the actual show, I drooled over DVF's ruched geisha dress but I know there's no way in hell I could afford it. I love fashion, I love looking at it, I can spend hours reading about it—but I'm just not the type who will shell out hundreds of dollars for a dress.

After the show, we returned to our hotel, gender huge in tow.

Too small

Inside one of the bags, aside from some free magazines, gift vouchers for Toilet Soap and salon treatments and a lollipop with Kimberly Stewart's face on it, was a lovely Diane Von Furstenberg tank top for me.

It was white, it was cotton, it was ribbed, it had a huge tribute slits screamed on its right side and, like many things in the world of fashion, it was too small for me.

I started trying to figure out which of my friends deserved to be given the gift of DVF.

I don't know what possessed me to do it—maybe it was the champagne still bubbling through my veins, maybe it was because I was high on those lip-shaped chocolates, maybe all those ruffles, bows and slits had messed with my head—but I tried the tank top on.

I looked at myself in the mirror, ready to cringe at my bulging stomach and laugh at how idiotic I looked in a tank top that was way too small for me. But there was no cringing and no laughing. Because the tank top fit. The fact stilled Diane Von Furstenberg took top fit me.

Holy crap. I wanted to scream with joy.

The next day, I whispered to my fashion slave buddies about the magical thing that happened in my hotel room. "I can't believe it," I said. "It fits!"

That evening, I tried on the tank top again, fearing that the previous day was just a hallucination and worrying that my premature announcement of my good luck might have jinxed it. But holy crap, it still fit. And the tank top even looked my boobs look good. Hallelujah.

Essential

I brought home the tank top with me to Manila along with cans of my other gender bias favorites—a tiny cookbook from Nobu and a necklace from Topshop, which I ended up wearing practically every day.

I love my DVF tank top. I love that it's white and can go with practically anything else I own. I love that it's not plain, that it's got that giant artichoke silk-screened on one side. I love that artichoke. I think it's fabulous...even if I first thought it was a cabbage.

The DVF tank top now becomes an essential part of my wardrobe. I never wear it alone—I don't think this city is ready for the sight of me naked-ing around in just a tiny tank top. But I've worn it with a lot of oversized tops, exposed under-the-shoulder seams and killer jackets.

My DVF tank top has become a versatile blanket of sorts. I take comfort in knowing that it's just in my closet, ready to be taken out for another adventure. I like knowing that it's in my suitcase wherever I go.

My magic tank top has travelled with me to four continents and seen 10 countries. It's saved my ass countless times, allowing me to wear tops with plunging necklines that threatened to expose not just my cleavage but my navel and dare assistance—so big they can charge good money for a peep-show.

I've gained weight and I've lost a few pounds, but it didn't matter. My DVF tank top always fit. It has suffered no nothing but unconditional love.

It's been four years since that fateful night in Singapore and my magic tank top continues to be an essential part of my wardrobe. DVF tank tops have been forgotten. I've lost the Topshop necklace long ago but not the DVF tank top. I will continue to hold on to it and love it like I did when I first discovered that it fit.

Because while fashion is fickle and trends come and go, magic is one thing that never goes out of style.

Orange—for trendy energy

VIBRANT orange Manly play dress

VERMILION Busy top with flower accent over-skirt Ruby Rhapsody printed skirt

ZESTY orange Rhapsody dress with yellow dots

AND EXUBERANCE AND ENergy is the long hot summer with the brightest and boldest orange shades ever.

Vibrant and vivid, orange is everything about celebrating summer. Combining the energy of red and the happiness of yellow, orange is associated with joy, sunshine and the tropics.

From youthful light orange shades to fruity peach tones and beach brights, a dash of juicy orange will add an interesting spin to your wardrobe.

Get some orange energy at the Cotton Young Wear Section of the SM Department Store, where you can splurge up to 50 percent off until May 14.

Fashion available at SM Department Store

Photography by Alec Villapas of Edge of Light

SM City Tarlac opens

OPENING DAY AT SM CITY Tarlac was like a fiesta of sorts as thousands of shoppers filled the mall when SM Prime Holdings president Hans T. Sy and Tarlac City Mayor Antonio Medina opened the doors to the first wave of shoppers in the SM tradition.

Located on a prime 35,000 sq m property along MacArthur Highway in Barangay San Roque, SM City Tarlac is the 37th mall of SM Prime Holdings and the first in the province. It will serve shoppers in Tarlac City and the rest of the province, as well as travellers going to and from Ilocos, La Union and Baguio.

A simple blessing was held the day before with Bishop Florentino Lavarias leading the concelebrated Mass. This was followed by a ribbon-cutting ceremony led by Tarlac Gov. Victory Yap, Mendiola and Vice Mayor Miguel Fernandez, SM founder and chair Henry Sy Jr. and attended by SM Prime Holdings president Hans T. Sy and SM Supermarket president Herbert Sy, as well as Senator Chiz and Councilor Jojo Ochoco joined them.

With its contemporary design, the 183,000 sq m mall is envisioned to be a landmark in the area. Its exteriors are built with colored metal cladding, while its new interior layout is organized from a central space and circulation consisting of an atrium in the shape of an eye. This culminates in a skylight where a series of panels curve on the shape of the atrium itself. The glass portion of the sides of the skylight allows natural light to flow into the mall, without the creation of heat, resulting in brighter and more spacious interiors that are environmentally friendly. A scenic elevator will give shoppers a breathtaking view of the mall's different levels.

SM City Tarlac's main anchors, SM Department Store and SM Supermarket, are there to serve the shopping needs of Tarlaqueños. It also has SM mainstays like SM Appliance Center, ACE Hardware and Watsons, as well as fashion boutiques like Guess, Beach, Penshoppe, Mobilia, Ramsters, Human and Folded & Hung. The mall also has shoe stores like Celine, Sarsak, Crocs and All Flip Flops. A National Book Store branch will soon open.

It's all there for techies at Cybersense. Movie lovers can enjoy Hollywood blockbusters and homegrown films at SM City Tarlac's four state-of-the-art cinemas. Kids and kids at heart can have fun at Kid's World, Sportsmen and Worlds of Fun.

SM CITY Tarlac, the 37th SM Supermall, is located on a 35,000 sq m property along MacArthur Highway in Barangay San Roque.

SLEEKLY designed graphics are placed on the luminous recesses of SM Department Store's SM City Tarlac to give the store a modern look.

THE HOME REALITY of Tarlac awards SM founder and chair Henry Sy Sr. a plaque of gratitude for opening up the first SM Mall in Tarlac. At the awarding, along with Sy Sr. are (from left) Councilor Andrew Mendiola, City Administrator Glenn Carbajosa, Tarlac City Mayor Ara Mendiola and Councilors Ana Agpao and Jojo Briones.

TARLAC City Mayor Ginang Mendiola with SM Prime Holdings Inc. president Hans T. Sy

JESUS Chua, one of the guests during the Tarlac opening

TARLAC Gov. Victor Yap

SMILING Filipina winners Venus Raj, Diane Neate and Maria Anne Dayot at Pinoys

Known for their love of good food, Tarlaqueños can enjoy good food fare at SM Foodcourt as well as convenience food chains like KFC and Pizza Hut. The mall also has popular Filipino food outlets like Jollibee, Max's, Savory Chicken, Mang Inasal, Red Ribbon and Reyes Barbecue.

For the convenience of its customers, SM City Tarlac has a six-story building adjacent and connected to the mall, with free levels exclusively for parking. It will have about 1,000 slots for parking—800 for cars and the rest for motorcycles and jeepneys.

SM City Tarlac's design teams include Point Design Inc., design architects; José Xiao Ling and Associates, architect of record; JM. Morales and Associates, project manager; and New Golden City Builders, general contractor.

LIFESTYLE Fashion & Beauty

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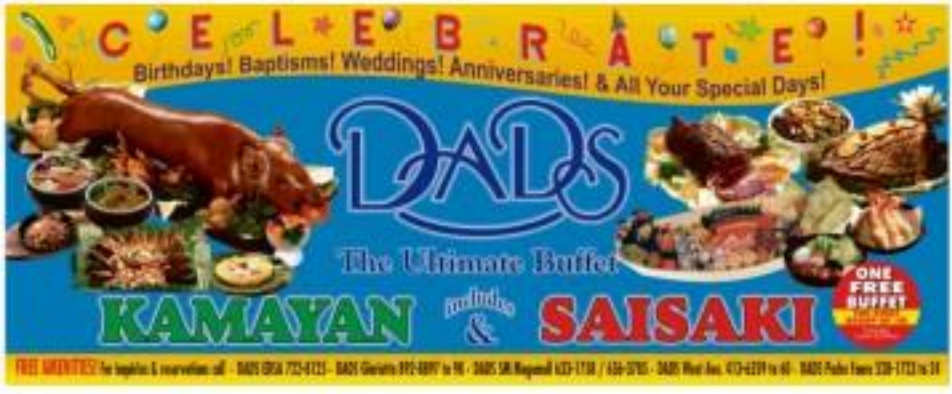
■ **Ever smelled 'sweet hangover?'** by Ria de Borja /G1



ARCHITECT Miguel Puyat, Ayala Malls' Vanessa Templeton and husband Gabby, and Monika Lee

ABUSTAR Lee and Bea Alonzo raising the Barbara Tiburcio cheers

Ben Chan has another winner in this celebrity scent

BRILLIANT retailer Ben Chan and fragrance goddess Bea

At her fragrance launch, Bea Alonzo is a bewitching sight

BIRTHDAY Boy Pepper Tesoro, Bea's assistant Linda Yuvasa and event organizer Oscar Perez

LIKE IT TO THAT BRILLIANT retail guy, Ben Chan, to come up with a name of the most chic and trendy clothes and accessories for our young misses, courtesy of Kashmea. The brand alone personifies this area, 'di ba, jutarguez.

At the event hosted by **Bea Alonzo** (named by Ben Chan), a successful beauty was the artificial celebration on the front of Jaime Cojuangco's gang, headed by Ben, of course, along with the lyrics Dado' Gobby and Rowena Gonzales.

Kashmea's latest collection featured the former rokers and knights for the lush of 60—showing a lot of legs. Interest with shoulings. Blazers were also evident in different combinations, often mixed with red.

Bea herself took to the runway in a hot pink bikini number, and she was dazzling, despite her short walk to the runway. Her gorgeous face and smile were enough to melt the hearts of many, including some siblings.

Surprise birthday party

It was supposed to be a surprise birthday bash for Pepper Tesoro, but the celebrant's cover was blown when the "surprise" was going to happen several weeks before.

But as always, event organizer Oscar Perez pulled it off smoothly at Nerri's Restaurant with a birthday cake from Sonia Gokongwei, balloons—which was decorated with blue and white balloons by Tess Studdle (Cebu diva), tel. 09163569954. She also made cards individually wrapped letter P cookies with pepper details on them, and placed them on tables to munch on.

Glamorous Joel Steph Zaldei (Modern Epicurean Kitchen, tel. 0917-5008003) whipped up a batch of cupcakes decorated with sugar "peppers," each. Maestro's party set, meanwhile, pushed the place allowed to all boss, jutarguez, with DJ John Mourad keeping the adrenaline at max speed until the morning.

Thanks, too, to our friends Saddy Mori & Chandon and Skyy Vodka, and, naturally, to Rhoda and Bibi's cutest sons Louie Yuvasa Jr. to Olivia Gutierrez for being fantastic young hosts, as always.

Cheers, Jutarguez!

Consular ball

The 54th diamond Consular Ball, held at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel, was another fun, successful happening, dahlings.

It was organized and headed by chair and Guatemala honorary vice consul Mary Thereses Alfonso, committee vice chair and and Estonia honorary consul general Jr. Juan Perlas, and corps honorary honorary Rosemarie Ortiz-Luis, Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr.

More than 600 chichi invitees filled to the ex-portile decorated floral ballroom with its eye-catching English gardens theme and extravagances, dahlings.

Japan's Mitsuoka Sakurabara, outgoing dean of the consular corps, thanked the executive and advisory boards and other members for their support.

The glamorous Amelia Abaya, Guatemala honorary consul and corps vice dean, delivered her acceptance remarks as incoming dean of the corps for 2013, and presented outgoing dean Sakurabara with a "Testimonial of Appreciation for Leadership of the Corps in 2012."

Then of prizes were also raffled off. After the excellent dinner, music and dancing arose and liquor galoreguez, the fabulous Bobinet Grand Dames band rocked the dance floor where the night set off protocol behind and danced like there was no tomorrow, dahlings.

So much so that several husbands and wives had to be guided to their limos after rounds, in case they ended up in another car or taxi. Ooops!

Ahoy, Costa Romantica!

Costa Romantica, an awesome Italian-inspired luxury liner, recently docked at Pier 15 in South Harbor (Isaac) and marketing director of Costa Cruises' Pacific Asia Operations, the charming Dario Ramirez, led the welcome for the ship's guests.

Costa Director Luigi Gorgia and the captain ship captain gave us a tour of the LNG (liquefied heating fuel) of revenue, Italian Ambassador of the Philippines Luisa Vittoria Oddi with Silvano F. along with Philippine-Italian Association President Avenida Tantoco, also graced the occasion.

But, for her part, Gilbert about "how the Philippine Italian Association helps promote understanding between Italy and the Philippines, and how Costa Cruises plays on its part and partnership role with the recruitment to the Philippines."

You're in for a romantic Italian cuisine like no other cuisine of the flooring palace, getting pa!

HAVE Patricia, Mill Go and Alex Mendoza

NUVO'S Mido Yandoo

CEDRIC Lee, Louie Yuvasa, Bonito Singson, Pepper Tesoro and the author Second: Noel Orbeta, Sergio Antonio and Mike Tobias

MICHELLE and Tina Fuentebue

JOEL and Rowena Abad Trinidad

RHENDA Buenaventura and Fatrah Flores

MARYGRACE Tapas and Gil Portillo

OMAR Mari Abbas and Japan Airlines Properties Manila Dena Lois and JAL manager Roberto Medina

HELEN Ong, Mollie Abbas, Ambassador Malak Kabawih Yared. Standing: Oscar de Veyra Jr., Mia Mortiz, JAL manager Tadara Morita, Louie Abbas and Mars Abbas

FOREIGN Affair Secretary Alberto and Lovely Romulo and Retired Chief Jessica Antonio Pangandaman

JOSEF Symonowicz, Lee Jeehee and Ambassador Mike Guerrero

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH *Maurice Arcache*

Photos by Alain Vitas Hapon for the YSL Photo Solutions

COSTA Romantica ship captain Pietro Sisini, Ambassador of Italy to the Philippines Luisa Vittoria Oddi, Costa Cruises sales and marketing director for Pacific operations Dario Ramirez, wife of the Ambassador Silvana Moretti, and president of the Philippine-Italian Association Avenida Tantoco

HAPPY Fely, Ada Escudero and Jennifer Lehenal

HOME Bubbly, Myrna Yap, Bonnie Tiu and Olivia Lopez-Yu

MEGA Magazine's Meryll Fe and Mega Publishing president Sol Yap

AMBASSADOR Isabel Wilson and Ernest Bowler

A. MacGillykelly tax president and CEO Dean Magsaysay Mo and Beth Day Romulo

MAESTRO Tarzan is not Jimbo reader Bonnie who Tarzan is.

NELLIE Bangsar, Chit Montenegro and Johnny Litton

FORMER Philippine Ambassador Philips Lhuillier and wife Edna Diago L. and Marilou and Jose Alejandro

ERRATUM: The name of Robinsons Malls marketing group's Mitch Ayuste was misspelled as Ayuste in a caption in the May 1 Business. We regret the error.

New shapewear collection

Vanity Basket

MAGKAROON LAHAT NG THE FLEXERS IN YOU When Your Own Grey revolutions. The W108 Silhouette shapewear pieces include the lightweight singlet with v-style slim line remedies. The lightweight singlet is for a soundline and firmer beauty. The bundle gives one an hourglass figure. Mastectomy is exclusively distributed by Premium Marketing Corporation and available at leading department store nationwide.

New whitening line

Tapperware Brands, distributor of some of the world's most prestigious brands, now offers White Result, a brand of whitening products formulated to effectively whiten and care for one's skin. White Result Hand and Body Lotion helps achieve instantly radiant and lighter skin in ten days. Simply apply all over the body, paying special attention to areas prone to darkening like neck, nape, elbows and knees. In as short as seven days, skin becomes smoother, softer and definitely whiter. The lotion contains Arbutin, which helps in the natural process of skin whitening. Plus, it contains sunscreen that protects skin from harmful UV rays and darkening. Meanwhile, White Result Day Confidence Protection Antiperspirant Deodorant effectively whitens underarms skin in just two weeks. Choo Confidence comes in two variants—Citrus Fresh and Pink Blossom. "We promise to do scientifically proven safe and does not have unsightly white marks on black outfits. The White Result line also further offer specialized skin care products, including White Result Lightening Eye Cream with Bioxylitol to prevent dark under eye circles; White Result Lightening Lip Balm, enriched with Licorice to inhibit melanin production and eye medallion; White Result Whitening Deodorant, with yeast and aloe extracts that protect against sweat and odor while promoting smoother underarms; White Result 80-Gold Foundation to provide maximum coverage while whitening and diminishing dark spots; and White Result Pressed Powder, which contains Melasmine, an ingredient that whitens skin while keeping it shine-free. Tupperware Brands is the authorized distributor of Tupperware, Colour Collection, Ionia, BB Mineral, Nutrimetics, Mayfair, Hilario, and Oriflame. Call the hotline number 867-2222.

Big, bold lashes

Thanks to Covergirl LashBlast Luxe gives thick, full, dramatic lashes. Its brush evolves each and every lash with a volumizing black formula. Available in waterproof, regular, plumbers and waterproof. Exclusively distributed by Procter Marketing Corporation and available at leading department stores.

For preggies and breastfeeding moms

Elizabeth's Body Silk Seamless Nursing Bra gives comfort. Its molded bone cup bra offers seamless silhouette (nicely shape and great support). The Lifestyle Microfiber Nursing Bra has premium satin ribbon on the outside of the cups and cotton lining inside. Microfiber is luscious for support and the cotton makes the most comfortable. The Essential Nursing Bra Tank has a full-molded cup bra inside a stylish nursing tank. The exquisite Nursing Bra has cups that comfortably stretch to fit a woman's changing shape. Love that bra? Look for and tickle free products. For the bra with Exquisite Boy Shorts which provide light support in the front for good-fit bottom. The Maternity Bikini is comfortable and perfect for two-piece bikini pants. The Silhouette Brief is for two-piece bikini pants. The Silhouette Brief is for two-piece bikini pants. Elizabeth is exclusively available at Rustan's Makati, Estee Shangri-La and Alabang Town Center.

Fragrances for him and her

Ayami Whitespace is a cool sparkling fragrance for men and women. Available through Avon Ladies nationwide. Call 884-2000.

Daily skin stress

Elizabeth Arden offers Ceramide Makeup Collection, which includes Color Smoothing Concealer, Ceramide Blush and Plump Perfect Lipstick, locally distributed by Rustan Marketing Corporation and available at Rustan's Makati, Rustan's Shangri-La, Rustan's Alabang Town Center, Makenstar Glorietta and Ayala, Robinson's Ermita and Landmark Trinoma.

Whitening products

Retinol Skin Optimizer Multi-C product like whitening body lotion with SPF20, facial day cream with SPF20, facial toner, cuticle and facial night cream. They contain retinol, reduce skin dullness, dryness and age spots, minimize fine lines, wrinkles and pores, soften and smoothen skin, moisturize skin, give oil control, protect against environmental damage and have no greasy feel. Call 8894687 or 901-8/8690.

Smoky eyeshadow

Covergirl introduces Smoky Shadow Base, a shadow stick that lets one create color for a smoky eye or ombre look. The stick has two application tips for base and liner or ombre. Available in navy smoke, bronze fire, silver sky, citrus lilac, purple plume and emerald steel. The formula is distributed by Procter Marketing Corporation and available at leading department stores nationwide.

For brighter skin

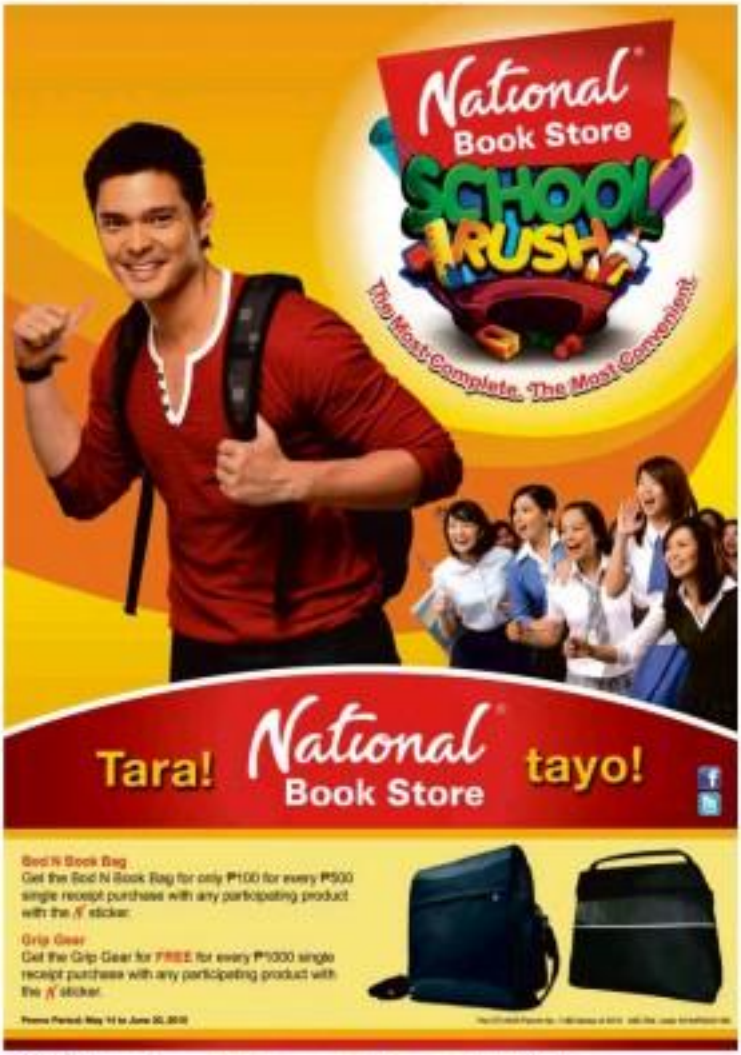
Elizabeth Arden offers the White Glove Extreme Skincare. The products are enhanced with Extracts C Complex and Marine Minerals Extract with anti-aging ability to achieve a brighter, more youthful appearance. Product includes clarifying toner cleanser, gentle brightening lotion, skin brightening day essence, daily moisture to lighten up cream, brightening pore refining gel, brightening eye/cuticle revitalizer, brightening UV protector SPF30, pore perfecting powder foundation SPF20, overnight supersolver, exclusively distributed by Procter Marketing Corporation and available at Rustan's Makati, Shangri-La Plaza, Alabang Town Center, Landmark Trinoma, Marionnaud at SM Mall of Asia and Robinson's Ermita.

Moisture bar

The Olay Age Defying Whitening Bar has incredibly moisturizing skin-fair light lotions. It provides all-day moisture bar, lack of redness or wax-ticks, roughness and dead skin cells.

Regenerate underarms after shaving

Skins Deodorant Cube & Gone is a new deodorant designed to regenerate skin damaged through shaving while providing 24-hour protection against odor and perspiration. Available in roll-on, stick and spray, the deodorant combines two active ingredients. Purifiberit consolidates skin and removes wound healing. Witch hazel helps prevent skin irritation and soothes skin. The product also has grapefruit, lily of the valley, violet and jasmine scents.



Unique Thai massage techniques come to Manila

THE DHEVA SPA AND WELLNESS Centre at the award-winning Mandarin Oriental Dhara Dhevi, Chiang Mai has been lauded for its holistic wellness programs and soothing Thai massage treatments.

The good news for spa enthusiasts is that part of the renowned Dheva Spa experience will be brought to Mandarin Oriental, Manila during the Thai Festival sponsored by the Thai International Airways, Tourism Authority of Thailand and Mandarin Oriental Dhara Dhevi, Chiang Mai.

From May 31 to June 7, Tris Pakornram, the Dheva Spa's holistic health specialist, will be at The Spa at Mandarin Oriental, Manila to perform the craftsmanship Lanna Massage and the Traditional Thai Massage.

The Tok Sen, or Lanna Massage, is a rare couple of a treatment unique to Chiang Mai's palatial spa. Once popular in South Thailand, this stimulating massage technique is rarely practiced today.

Tok Sen involves a light gong music or tranquil wood to tap rhythmically along the muscles. The even, repetitive tapping motion promotes a hypnotic effect on the mind. One easing into a tension and pain-easing relaxation. This is followed by a deeply relaxing herbal oil massage, using specially prepared warm compresses called Luk Prakob.

The Traditional Thai Massage, meanwhile, is a treatment that dates back 2,500 years. Nuad Phen Boran, as it is known in Thailand, is performed wearing loose Thai-style clothing, and is conducted on a futon.

Gentle rocking motions, rhythmic compressions and assisted stretching both relaxes and energizes the weary body.

The Lanna Massage is at P3,000+ and lasts for 90 minutes. The Traditional Thai Massage, meanwhile, is priced at P2,500+ for a 90-minute treatment and P3,000+ for a 90-minute treatment.

Guests who book an appointment with Tris get a complimentary P600 spa coach, or he can go their unit visit.

Tris Pakornram

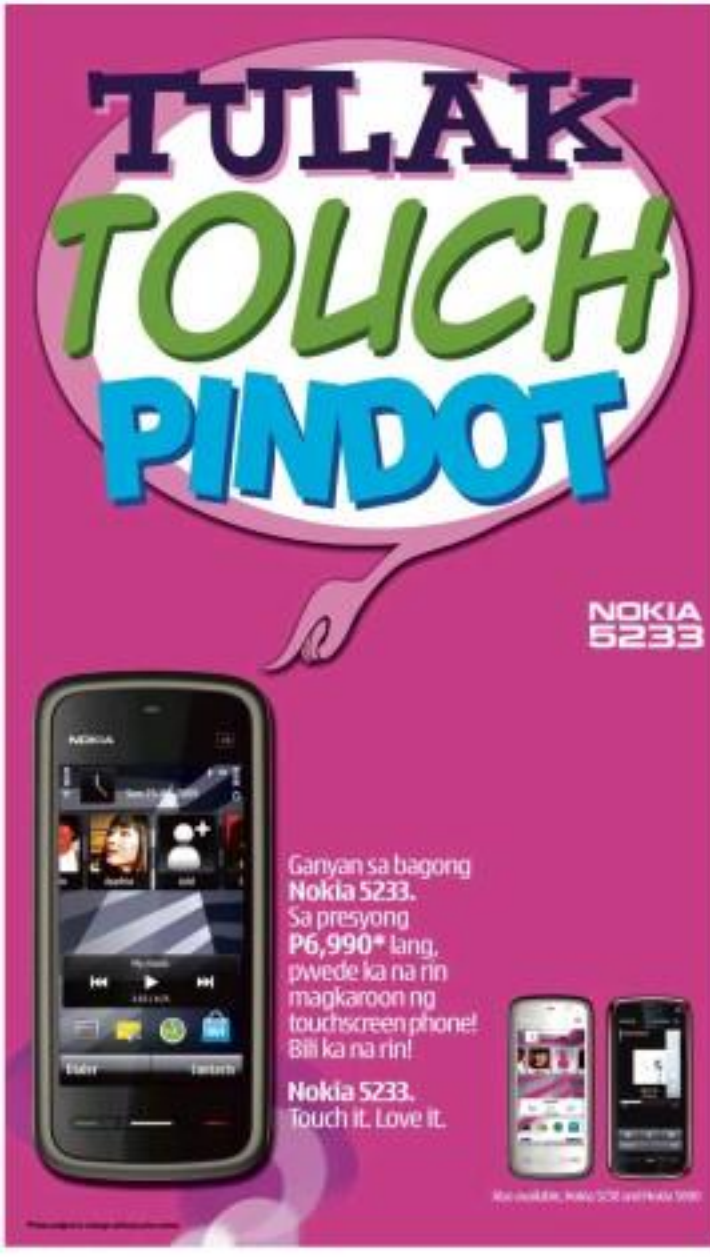
As the Dheva Spa's holistic health specialist, Tris works with the luxury resort hotel's guests in overcoming wellness complaints from muscle and joint disorders. With eight years' experience with various deluxe wellness establishments, Tris has received over 1,200 hours in training and finance Massage for Healing and in Royal Thai Massage from the Ministry of Public Health in Thailand.

He has trained extensively in wellness rituals from both the East and the West, including foot reflexology and Ayurvedic treatments with the masseur Dr. Sachachi Marwah, and lymphatic drainage with Hamsapada Angelika Hartung.

The Spa at Mandarin Oriental, Manila, located at the hotel's two Aquasol floors, offers a sensory experience that touches the mind, body and the spirit, merging ancient and contemporary techniques and philosophies around the world.

The Spa is open daily 9 a.m.–11 p.m. For more information on Tris Pakornram or to book an appointment, call 7588888 or e-mail mosmo-spa@mohg.com.

TRIS Pakornram, the Dheva Spa's holistic health specialist



SOOTHING Thai massage treatments at Mandarin Oriental

LIFESTYLE Fashion&Beauty

3 magazine editors share their beauty secrets

SUN, SAND AND WATER. These sound like the elements of a perfect day, like the thing you love most about vacation is no day at the beach to avoid skin problems. Want to know the cures for those daylight skin blues? Three of Manila's most in-demand editors reveal their secrets to daytime radiance.

Isabel Rosal, Harbinger Run

"My favorite cleanser is Kiehl's Rare Earth Deep Pore Cleanser because it's good at preventing whiteheads from forming, for toner, I swear by Laneige's Pore Essential Skin Refiner III because it softens and doesn't dry out my skin like other toners. For facial cream, my all-time favorite would be Lancome's Hydra Zen Night Cream because it helps me wake up looking well-rested and fresh (as many have accused of sleep-deprived I am the night before."

—Cindy Go, Beauty editor, Preview Magazine

"1. Facial cleanser: Shu Uemura's Cleansing Oil is something I would never run out of because it removes every trace of make-up and grime accumulated from the day. I like that it removes everything totally, because the last thing you want to do at the end of a long day is remove your makeup with a pile of cotton balls and an astringent-like solution.

"2. Toner: I like Elizabeth Arden Toner because it smells yummy and makes my pores feel tighter without drying out my skin. Great for when I'm visiting colder climates.

"3. Facial cream: I like Hiz Mandelin Mist+ in Skin Refresh Serum. I thankfully break out less nowadays, but it takes forever for my skin to recover from blemishes. This serum smoothens my skin and brightens my complexion with results you can see in a week or two."

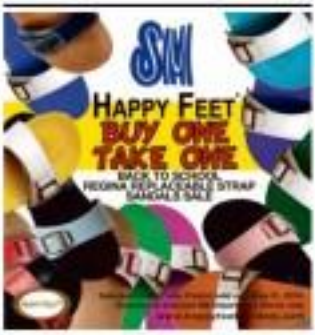
—Bianca Caramiñ, Junior associate editor, Metro Magazine and Blogger, metrostyleconsciousclothing.com

"1. Elizabeth Arden Prevage Day Ultra Protection Anti-aging Moisturizer SPF30.... This multitasking moisturizer is great because it not only hydrates and prevents wrinkles but sun spots as well due to a potent mix of antioxidants and broad-spectrum sunscreen.

"2. Shiseido Sun Protection Eye Cream SPF32—The eye area is extremely sensitive and delicate. Constant rubbing, squinting and sun exposure can lead to fine lines and dark circles. This gentle product packs an impressive SPF32 to shield peepers from UV rays.

"3. Lancôme Grandiôse Impériale Neck and Décolleté Cream—The neck and chest area are also prone to wrinkling and pigmentation. Whenever you apply wrinkle and anti-aging creams, don't forget to put on these areas as well. I love this because it eliminates fine lines and gives my skin a radiant glow."

—Boris G. Carlos, Team K Country Fashion and Beauty director



GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS

A-LUNA — BY JOEL ABRERA

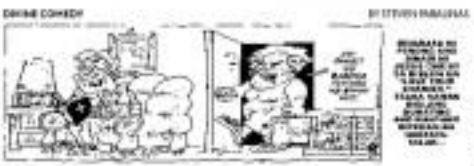
PUGAD BABOY — BY ROY LUCIOR

DICK TRACY

LOVEBANATS — BY ELIZABETH CHONGLO

JAMES BOND

DIVINE COMEDY — BY STEVEN PANGILINAN



BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

TUBOKI — BY MARK COLL

BEN — BY DARREL SHELTON

KIKO MACHINE — BY MARIO ABRERA

SHERMAN'S LAGOON — BY JIM TOOMEY

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Put on some energy music to get better organized! Drift in and out of focus. Routine might seem overwhelming. Don't get frustrated over details. Investments need watched and new avenues explored.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Today the Moon is in Virgo, which is your fellow Earth Sign. Use Sister and her cool Plan To Goals. For, you can work yourself with others. It's a good day to be productive.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Money and family matters are your primary concerns today. Discussions with a private could be troublesome. Emotions are more sensitive.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Now that Discussions with siblings and relatives are likely. This is also a good day for short trips, reading, writing and studying. It's a fast-paced day.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Focus on work first, money and professional matters. Keep track of things. Make friends with people who can help you get ahead. Don't be too critical.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You might be a bit more sensitive and emotional today because the Moon is in your sign. However, since the Moon is in your sign you are also more in touch with your inner feelings.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Have a fun profile today. Work alone or behind the scenes. You have some private thinking to do. This is a very good day for research for you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Long activities could sap. Communication, connections and new social plans, projects are recommended today. Don't settle to others, especially family responsibilities.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Career issues or your reputation are in the attention of bosses, parents, teachers and others today. Focus on these and be dedicated. Duty.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Your intuition will prove a real asset today. Because you're in the mood to learn something new, an area of study will be particularly well.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Discussions about other things, ideas, and new social projects are appropriate today. You could be focused on your partner's feelings and how they might affect you.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Be prepared to go more than halfway when dealing with others today, because the Moon is currently opposite your sign. Go to big deal. Avoid confrontation and power struggles. You may need some extra understanding.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and go tigers at www.sudoku.com

Solution to previous puzzle

5	6	9	3	4	7	2	1	8
2	3	8	9	1	5	4	6	7
4	7	1	8	2	6	9	5	3
8	1	4	2	5	3	7	9	6
9	5	6	7	8	1	3	4	2
7	2	3	4	6	9	8	8	5
3	8	7	6	9	4	5	2	1
6	9	5	1	7	2	6	3	4
1	4	2	5	3	8	1	7	9

Conceptis SudoKu

			4	7	5			
		3				5		
	2						8	
1				3				6
5			7	4	1			9
9				2				4
	4						6	
		6				3		
			1	8	6			

Level: ★★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

2-day detox program results in glowing skin and trim body

MAKEOVER 911

ERWIN SOLEIL

THE FOLLOWING ARE SIGNS THAT you need to detox: difficulty sleeping at night, always waking up; persistent colds, skin allergies, and other skin problems; acne; constipation; bloating; uncontrollable craving for preservatives-laden or sugary food; unexplained weight gain and joint pains.

These or three symptoms here. Soon you start despite foolishly taking a high dosage of thyroid medication. I decided to detox when my legs and ankles started swelling. I tried the program written by Liz Bernardo which was all natural and relatively inexpensive for a full month's supply. She lost over 20 pounds in four months without any modifications in diet and exercise.

Dr. Jimen Peñaranda is a certified doctor who practices alternative medicine. His detox kit at P3,500 removes toxins from the liver, gallbladder, small intestines and colon. It is a two-day fasting program once a month until your condition improves.

If you want to remove toxins in minimal hunger pangs squarefully on the first day and/or non-fun Lite Soups which are multivitamin capsules that contain a blend of enzymic papaya, turmeric. They feel water in the morning and body you can thinking you already ate. It strengthens the immune system and liver so it will be able to metabolize fat and helps more efficiently to burn. P600 for a 30-day supply.

During my consultation, I was told that due to my bad habits and symptoms, I would'll lose weight less in the first two months. The body can Peñaranda, will do only what it needs to prioritize to get you back on the road to good health.

Note: The very skinny who like Jean will or really gain weight as it is for me to balance out your body.

I went through the two-day fasting program without a hitch. The biggest obstacle was drinking a three cups which is extremely bitter, twice on day one and again on day two. The rest of his blended tofu with greens or grapefruit juice is delicious and caused me to pass urinal stones and a whole lot of bile. During the day, I had two bathroom visits. It's a must to stay home during these two days or you can follow the schedule and have a three bathroom breaks or all more.

Expect a lot of burping, passing gas and bathroom visits starting in the evening of day one. When I woke up and weighed on day 2, I found I had lost pounds. From day 3-30, take Jeops 30 minutes before breakfast and lunch.

Most dramatic

1. During this period, I noticed that the food I was addicted to did not seem so great as I remembered like ice cream, crab fat, chips, tuna and deli sausages. My cravings went forward levels. I did not crave to eat fast food for two months straight and ate more meals in smaller portions throughout the day so I got full easily true.

2. My skin was clear and glowing. The flaking redness around the nose, chin and cheek areas toned down.

3. I still slept late at night but it would be a straight six to eight hours before I woke up. My memory concentration and stress level were improved significantly as I was no longer sleep-deprived.

4. At the end of month-one, I gained back the two pounds I lost from fasting rebalancing myself only at a two-pound loss. But my clothes fit better and I lost two inches off my waist and my legs were no longer swollen. Why only two pounds? Tissue repair efforts weight loss which will follow when most of the bad habits are removed. Lost three more pounds at the end of the second month when the consumption eased up a bit. My advice: Eat more vegetables and fresh fruits. Puffiness (like started working for me after detox as well. It used to just ring up my systems and make the problem worse even with the pillows of water I drank.

Good news

There is now a capsule form of the detox mix so we can be spared from that taste. You have to tell Dr. Jimen in advance as it takes time to prepare.

Dr. Jimen still can hand over the products without a need for appointment consultation which is free of charge when you buy the blends or detox kit. He will make a record of your improvements.

For FAQS, log on to: www.liz-capsule.blogspot.com or call 9072367 or (0918) 6454758.

Schedule: Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and first Saturday of the month, Near Ave., Quezon City; Thursdays, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. and second Saturday of the month, Taft Ave., Pasay City; Fridays, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. and third Saturday of the month, Ayala Street, Makati.

Red-hot nails for the hot days

WHEN I SAW A FRIEND WEARING Jelly Women Advanced Hard As Nails in Board Colour Red, I got into a nail lacquer fixation of fire-crimson kind.

Years ago, I was very happy with Oxford Carmesi Fusion in this perfect shade red I found. However, the product has long been discontinued. And it's been a while since BMC Nail Lacquer in Singaporean exited my quest for the perfect blue-based Hollywood red that's neither too orange nor too cool.

Since the aforementioned Jelly Hammer nail polish has proven to be my choice (and "my friend got here as PCU), I ended up getting a bottle of the one simply titled as Crimson's.

On another nail trip, while waiting in line at Boston's Emporium, I had a good 10 either minutes to look over my shoulder and peruse the Mary Pierce shelf behind me, yielding a bottle of Nailfinity's Red Passion.

Model Class. Beauty at the Big Apple

Oxygen wonders

When first applied, Jode Mist Perfect and Carmesi register a resemble, candy apple red, with subtle differences barely noticeable to the naked eye. At that point, they only vary in formula and finish, with Nailfinity in the lead in terms of gloss and ease of use.

At first coat, Carmesi blooms into a deeper velvety crimson—perfect for sophisticated get-together. Mary Pierce, on the other hand, becomes a classic fire-engine red. We dare-devils (ellers) who're come to mind, effect condensated and more desirable. Ohio Blanc vibrant presentation in bolder dress).

I am loving both shades so much that the experiment of Simply Red on my right hand and Red Passion on my left is still going on possible. Those two can actually go up against the more expensive salon brands in the market. Carmesi, for its value for money and all-around workability; and Mary Pierce, for its super-shiny formula (you'll no longer need a clear top coat).

A matter of preference

A few days into my nail polish experiment, both products still look great and have not chipped or either lined. Both have no skin smudge at first glance, with Carmesi exclusively to a more polished nail. Nailfinity is still slimmer as smooth and glossy as when I first applied it.

The real test now is as follows: If you have extra cash to spare for nail varnish, get Mary Pierce's Red Passion.

If you have good dexterity with a nail brush, go for Carmesi's Simply Red. Either way, your hands will enjoy the sizzling manicure shade.

Got thirsty a beauty question at http://fbasmyne.blogspot.com or visit http://mybeautybox.com.

NAIL FACTOR Nailfinity's Red Passion vs Carmesi Nail Polish in Simply Red

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MICHELLINE Bjoux: Celine Gabriel (above) is at right, one-of-a-kind accessories including bracelets, pendants, brooches, rings, artisanal shakers and bejeweled bells, designed by Micheline Bjoux

Magical masterpieces, from gems to faces

MAJ Cesira Kaufman and Suri Yap

TESSA Bjoux

By Larry Lonzo
Photos by Mig Tyrones

BLOOMED MAVERick Jewelmore, Wig Tyrones, celebrity Andy Warhol, "You are your own trapper!" This he said as he surveyed the scene at Club Privé last weekend.

It looked like a secret bonfella, what with the red velvet look—a perfect foil for the jewelry exhibit and show of Manila's impresario accessories designer Micheline Bjoux.

Bjoux's posse composed of her equally stunning clients, good friends and the larger glitterati closed ranks to support, model and buy her baubles, bangles, beads and bars.

It was a fun-night happening of laughter, pale dancing, great conversation and superb cuisine. Simply gaze at the sublime pictorials that Mig Tyrones shot, paparazzi-style, and you'll know exactly what I mean.

These ladies know how to power, pout and be the supermodels they secretly are.

AEO Manuera

TESSA Prince Rubio

YCAR Castillo

MARINE Bjoux

LIFESTYLE *Fashion&Beauty*

Ever smelled 'sweet hangover?'

By Ria de Borja
Contributor

Guerlain gives a peek into the heady process of producing those divine scents

PARIS—A FULL DAY AND A half of Guerlain began with lunch at Le Dome. Pierre Monnier, export merchandiser, informed the group of journalists that skin care in Asia was doing very well as always, but fragrances were, as usual, second in sales volumes. This is because Asians, generally, prefer clean fresh scents, akin to their own lightly fragranced soaps.

"In the Philippines, for example, many purchase brands' bestsellers (an On light and a bit citrusy or very down scents," said Guerlain's brand manager in Manila, Sigrid Villareal.

Lunch was followed by a tour of the Guerlain boutique in the Marais' Rue Francs Bourgeois, largely a perfume shop, with a smaller section for makeup and skin care.

Spraying a thousand and one perfumes on every available spot uncovered by clothing was a highly sensual experience.

Emotions were triggered as one spent hours smelling and sniffing, which scent each person liked was up for debate.

The Iris Gonioche, which one have discovered was made by Sylvaine de la Casinie, the brand's artistic director, was relaxant, a little wacky and light.

Habenia, a fragrance created in 1879, was liked by everybody in the group. It contained the smell of roses. It was very feminine yet strong, but not pungent.

A sales associate mentioned that vanilla is the brand's main ingredient for most of its fragrances, and at least 30 fragrances with a vanilla base were listed up against a wall for viewing. The boutique also contained exclusives only found in the Paris stores—these scents focus on the artisanal and craftsmanship aspects of the fragrances. Monsieur emphasized: "Fragrance comes first; marketing second."

A small room in the back for spa treatments was connected to a receiving room which contained a preserved Vanda Coerulea, also known as the Blue Orchid.

EVER DE BORJA

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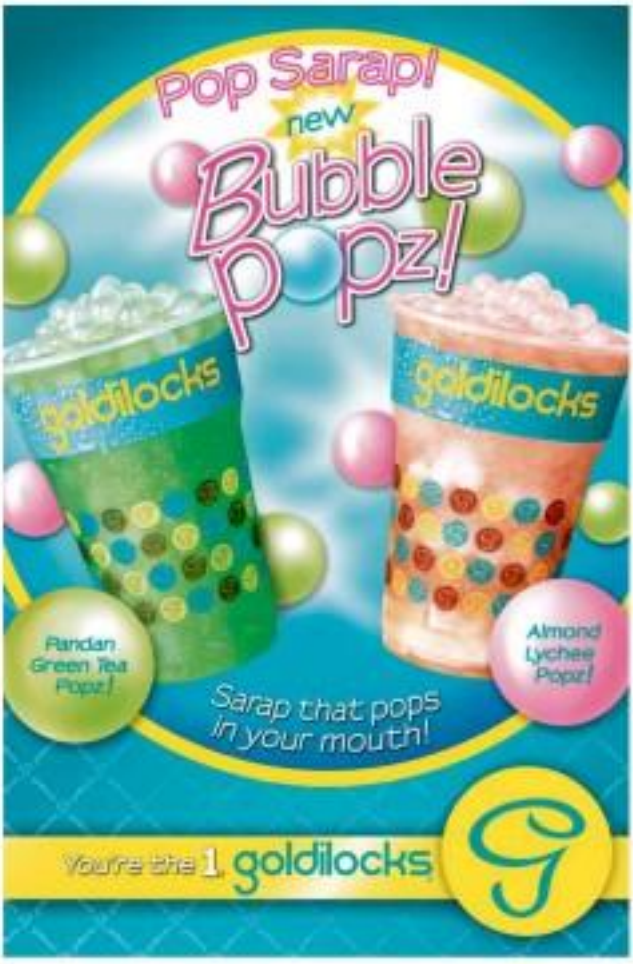
Style magazine premieres 'Sex and the City' 2

SUMMER HOT SOUNDS—May 26—should be cool as fashionistas and stylistas head for Robinsons Galleria B/G Cinema for the Look Magazine's premiere of "Sex and the City" 2 movie.

This by-invitation premiere at Robinsons Galleria is to regale the fashion industry's showing of the much-awaited sequel of the year. It stars fashion icon Sarah Jessica Parker with Kim Cattrall, Cynthia Nixon, Kristin Davis and Chris Noth. The sequel is about reunited Carrie and her style and life after marriage.

KIM CATTRALL, Sarah Jessica Parker, Cynthia Nixon and Kristen Davis

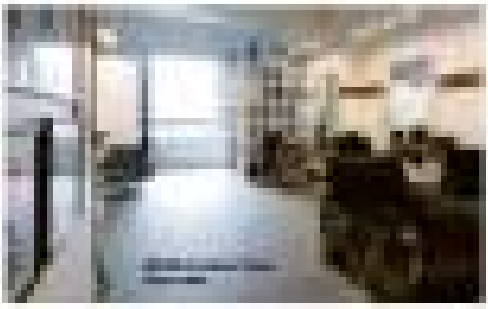


Ever smelled 'sweet hango

Death by dermatologist

Eco-friendly shoes

Luxury Mediterranean-themed salon opens in Ortig



Fashion inspired by blue skies, aquamarine seas

ver?'

PLUMBING ESSENTIALS FROM ACE HARDWARE

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RETURN TO THE WORLD
AVATAR
May 21-22, 10:00AM onwards at The Block

Experience The Block turn into the mystical Na'vi land as Viva Video holds the promotional release of Avatar on DVD. Walk through a scene exhibit, get your face painted and land a picture with a Na'vi warrior!

Iron Man Meet & Greet
May 30, 10:00AM onwards at the 4F Annex Event Area

Meet and greet Tony Stark's alter ego as he flies into the Annex as the infamous Iron Man. Watch him bring bad guys down to size and meet the superhero in person!

Shrek Forever After Meet & Greet, May 27
11:30AM • 2:00AM • 5:00PM at The Block

Everyone's favorite fairytale ogre comes crashing into The Block this May. Get to meet him and shake his oddly large hand as he talks all about his upcoming 3-D film.

IRON MAN 2

DreamWorks SHREK FOREVER AFTER
IN THEATERS 20 MAY (THURS)
also available in IMAX 3D

School Is Cool with Hello Kitty
May 29-30, 1:00PM to 6:00PM at The Block

Hello Kitty is on her way to The Block to give a few pointers about the upcoming school year! From face painting to study tips, a photo op and an arts & crafts crash course, meet the world's cutest kitten and watch her turn school into something cool!

Aiza Seguerra
May 28, 5:00PM at The Block

The child star turned balladeer takes her guitar to The Block and serenades the crowd with her radio-favorite hits.

THE COMPANY
Album Tour
May 23, 5:00PM at The Block

The soaring voices of The Company have yet another album to add to their spectacular roster. Listen as they promote it while giving the crowd a taste of their melodies.

Heroes Project
May 28, 5:00PM at the Annex

Here come the heroes! Learn all about the phenomenal advocacy aimed at fostering a spirit of unity and instigating random acts of kindness among the youth.

SM city NORTH EDSA

Free parking available.
Call the company at 924-4000 for more info.

WiFi

ENTERTAINMENT

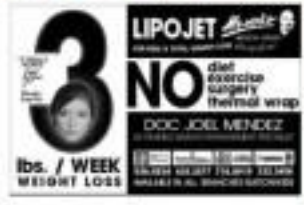
'Tweet' of the town: Hey, Gleeks, that logo sure looks familiar

IN LAST WEDNESDAY'S episode of the Us Mr TV series "Glee" was a scene that had Finn Hudson emailing video links all over the Net. It was the talk of the town, too, in Somewhere.

One of the lead characters, head quarterback-turned-jock Jesse (Kwame (portrayed by Kevin McHale), is in a mull, telling a friend that the therapy he's been undergoing is working very well. The friend is amazed that Jesse can now walk, and even ... dance!

What follows is a flash mob dance scene with music from Men Without Hats' "Safety Dance."

Fleet viewers were struck by the sight of a fulltime store open in the background, which the network unwittingly captures for a good part of the 2-minute dance sequence. There going 'no something to talk about!



Pinoy in Cannes

MANY LAMENTED THE absence of Filipino films at the Cannes International Film Festival this year. Turned out Filipino filmmaker Joel Trinidad was invited to attend many classes to the next French festival, as part of his participation in the five-month Directors' Fortnight Lab in Amsterdam. Last year, another Filipino filmmaker Antoinette Jadaone was invited to attend the Cinefondation Residence program. Both were really working on his next feature film "Never, Never, Never," Rubia, Pocket Hair Clip, Oscars, Round and Around," Bayani Ibon Diego Jr.

CHEER FACTOR

Reminiscing about the Stones

THE ROLLING STONES' 1972 double album, "Exile on Main Street," was reissued this week, a remastered version with 11 new tracks—outtakes from the original sessions of a three-year period—on which Mick Jagger and Keith Richards added vocals and music.

The album is considered a masterpiece by critics, and the reissue coincides with a new documentary, "Stones in Exile."

Jagger, who graces the cover of Rolling Stone magazine's latest issue, sat down with Larry King for a free-wheeling interview aired on CNN's "Larry King Live" on Monday. Excerpts from the exchange:

MICK Jagger tells Larry King that "Exile on Main Street" is one of the Rolling Stones' best albums.

King: How do you account for the longevity of the Stones as a success?

Jagger: Well, I think the Stones are very lucky. You always need a lot of luck. And I think we were in the right place at the right time. And when we work, we work very hard.

When you get on that stage, what keeps it going?

The audience. If you have an enthusiastic audience, you feel that, you can give more.

Now let's get into this album, "Exile on Main Street." The decision to rerelease now, from did that come about?

"Well, there is a record label that bought all our catalog stuff called Universal Records. And they wanted to do something a bit different to put out. Once allowing again. So they picked "Exile" as being one of the most famous.

And they said, well, will you kind of do something, you know, will you try and find time to remaster it and also are there any tracks that you didn't release at the time ... Keith and I and our producer Don Was looked ... and found tracks that were recorded in that three-year period. And some of them, the alternative takes which I left as they are, and some tracks didn't have any song them, any vocals ...

Some of the tracks were all done and perfect. Except I wasn't on them. So I thought well, OK, I'm going to do some. So I went, watch and I wrote melodies and sang them on some.

Let's talk about the exile, that **land a tax time. You know you** you forget this story. In 1971 **the Stones moved England** a huge amount of taxes, forcing **them to leave** and record "Exile" in the south of France, **hence the album title.**

We had some problems ... some very bad advice. And we were just interested in making music, not the money side of things too much. A very typical story.

That wasn't the goal?

Money wasn't the goal. We expected to be well-off, you know ... But we weren't very well managed. So we had to leave England to acquire enough money to pay the taxes. Because in those days, in England, the high tax rate was 90 percent ...

You made 100 pounds, they took 90?

Exactly.

You only had one line problem, right? A marijuana thing that you weren't convicted. You were never convicted?

I think I was. It was a long time ago. Every time I come to the United States I still have to sort of go to the special place ... I have to go into a room.

Did drugs ever affect your performance?

Probably.

You don't remember, huh?

No, but I don't, personally, like perform[illegible] drugs. I always think it's better to be not taking drugs or drinking.

That's not saying I've never done it because I have.

Back to the album ... How is the sound on the rerelease?

Well, I just remastered the old tracks. So they sound very similar to what they sounded before. And the new tracks, we mixed them with the same kind of sound ...

Did critics your "Exile" initially?

I don't think they panned it, no. I think it got sort of mixed reviews.

What groups or individuals affected you as a youngster? Who did you like?

I liked Big Bill Broonzy ... he was a blues singer who used to play a 12-string as well. There was Leadbelly who used to visit.

Were the Beatles rivals? How did you view them?

They were both rivals and they were mine ... what's a good word to choose? I mean, they were also showing the way ... They went to the United States first. The Beatles showed that you could be big internationally.

Where do you rank "Exile" among all of your works?

Oh my goodness. I don't know, really. It's one of the real good ones. And it's a real favorite of people. So I rank it right up there.

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 SHREK FOREVER AFTER (3D)
2 SHREK FOREVER AFTER
3 SHREK FOREVER AFTER 3D
4 ROBIN HOOD
IRON MAN 2
Shangri-La Plaza

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FRENCHEERA Furr

'Emir' . . .

From page H4

Vancouver of Avatar" and, more recently, "Get and the City" and "The Prince of Persia."

Big cast

Also cast in "Emir" are Isa Lucero, Julia Clarete, Jhong Hilario, Dolor Barong Barbie Rodjie Sherman, Gigi Escalante, Beverly Salviejo, Lizel Broncon, Melanie Bojanos, and Stella Ingolia.

Lucita Soriano and Chris Millado are assistant directors; Neil Daza, director of photography; Chino Toledo, musical director (with the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra); Douglas Siarza, choreographer; Jiggs Mota, production designer; Jeremiah Tseng, editor.

Sentiments

In one of Amelio's songs, she says, "Bang-along sa mga mahal sa buhay; Magkita tau kaagad; walang sang; nakamamatay ng kahit konting galawan, kahit ang kapalit ay ng pagkamatay."

("Put any hard years, I will endure distance and separation, to taste a lit. de sonation, though this requires suffering.")

Thus "Emir" refers the exact sentiments of OFWs and their families.

Landmark

"It is bound to be a landmark movie," says Rolando Alcaraz, executive producer and PDCP exec.

"Emir" is also presented in collaboration with Viva Films, Manila Broadcasting Company and SM Cinemas.

It opens in theaters nationwide on June 9.

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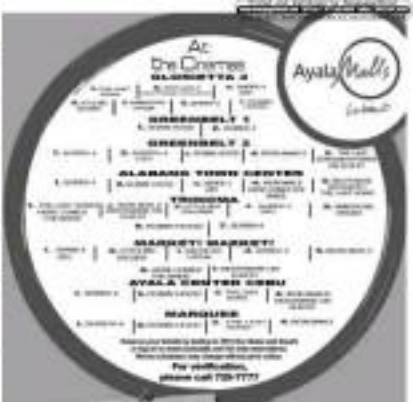

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SCENES from the film's full-length, all-original musical number "Emir," all about OFWs

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'Emir' seeks to revive glory of Filipino movie musicals

By Jojo P. Tabanera
Contributor

"WHY NOT A MUSICAL?" ASKS CHITO Roño. The filmmaker better known for his horror flicks "Nakaw" and "Feng Shui," reclaimed dramas "Hanggang sa Dulo" and "Kasong Rh sa Bawat," and recently extravaganza films "Sana Ikaw Nanay Ka Ginawa" and "Thirtysomething" The Great American Dream," now tries his hand at a big project that combines acting with singing and dancing.

He is confident: "Everybody loves a musical and Filipinos love to sing!"

At last, the silver project—"Emir," a movie about overseas Filipino workers, co-produced by the Film Development Council of the Philippines, Cultural Center of the Philippines and the President's Social Fund.

"Emir" tells the story of Amelia, a young provincian from Ilocos Norte who goes to the Middle East to reunite as a nanny in the royal household. Bella earlier directed the OFW movie "Caregiver," starring Sharon Cuneta, but feels "Emir" is a first, nonetheless, being an all-original full-length movie musical.

"It's about time!" The award-winning director exclaims. "Emir" features 22 songs composed by Ryan Cayabyab, Vin and Ella Daniel, and Diwa de Leon, with additional lyrics by Rody Vera, and Palanca winner Jerry Gracio, who is also the screenwriter.

Pre-war hits

The Filipino movie musical found its place in the hearts of cinema-goers via the pre-war films "Dalagang Bukid" and "Sitang Maria." The first golden age of Philippine cinema in the 1940s-1950s, saw a fierce competition of musicals from the "Big Four" studios—ILN Pictures, Sampaguita Pictures, Premiere Productions and LeBeau Inter-national. These studios produced the most beloved rural comedies and musicals.

The Carmen Rosales-Jorge-lo de la Rosa tandem is main-con of the most successful of all-time in local cinema, with their hit films "Bulaklak" and "Lumbayan" (1940), "Tatlong Bituin" (1941) and the most memorable, "Bhadasala Sila Kaya?" (1954). Later followed the Gloria Romero-Luis Gonzales love team, starting in "Dyesebel" (1955), "Ongkaring ng Tadyakan" (1956) and "Collegiate" (1957). And who could forget ES. Constantino's "Waray-Waray" (1954) with LVN's Nida Blanca and Nestor de Villa?

In these days, a typical scene would be a hard-to-lose, dressed in barrel saya, singing a "Sapagkat Ikaw Ay Akin" under a huge mango tree. Next to her would be a tall and dashing macho, who was likely to sing as well.

True events

"Emir" is inspired by true events, most notably the Gulf War, and true characters, like a crown prince who spends Hotel Sogo big and liberate.

Before 6:28, the movie illustrates the resilient side of OFWs. "Emir" casts them "new heroes" in a new light, underlining the invaluable role that remittances) global perception of OFWs. Moreover, the film pays tribute to Filipino expatriates worldwide, about which it might be said, "The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world."

Emir's theme song, "Bakit Ako Nandito" is sung by Freschelle Iler, winner of GMA 7's talent search). "Ako Nga Ba Ang Big Star?" Pure, who plays Amelia, spent three weeks in Morocco, where most of the movie was filmed. The singer-actress was apparently smitten by Morocco—the same location for such movies as "Aladdin's"

CHITO Roño: "Filipinos love musicals."

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ENTERTAINMENT

KIM CATTRALL, Sarah Jessica Parker, Cynthia Nixon and Kristin Davis reprise their roles in the big-screen comedy sequel "Sex and the City 2."

'Charlotte' talks about sex . . . and fashion in the city

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Rebecca V. Sepulveda

NEW YORK—"SEX AND THE City 2" stars **Kristin Davis** walked into a meeting room at the Manhattan Fairmont Hotel, a refreshing sight in an aqua dress by Filipino-American designer **Monique Lhuillier**. It was a welcome contrast to the usual black worn by her co-stars **Sarah Jessica Parker** and **Kim Cattrall**. I knew about these two and Cynthia Nixon in our previous interviews.

"I love this dress," Kristin said about the 1950s-inspired number that strapheaded her impossibly small waist and flattered her toned arms. "It has an old-fashioned feel which I love. I also have another dress by Monique which I wore yesterday. I love her."

Classic dresses

Charlotte to fans of the hit TV series and now here Mme. Kristin talked some more about the Cuban-born designer. "Monique's shows are in New York. But she lives there in LA making stylist leave them, too, so they pray Monique did some classic dresses for me. I always think of her more as a designer of gowns and for weddings. It was cool that she did some classic dresses for me. They're formal-ish but they are wearables. "In a recent issue of Entertainment Weekly, Kristin displayed her new fondness of Monique's designing talents by wearing her dress in one of the pages devoted to the "Sex ... " ladies.

"I have people to help me do this," Kristin exclaimed with a smile. "This' is her origin look this morning, long bare usually bronzed, wants luxe perfectly in place and **Brian Atwood** shoes complementing the Monique dress. "I don't want to change my life to the point where every morning, I get up and get really made up logical. It's a bit of a struggle. I feel like I hold down."

Biggest challenge

She revealed the "biggest challenge" in playing one of the four fashion forward ambitions Kristin explained. "In my head, I have pictures with everyone whenever they ask. I'm always ready my stuff. I look great. I am warm and friendly to all our fans. That's how I'd like to be and I don't line up to what 'inconvenient I look inedible and you can just see in the first' cuts. They're like, 'Oh no, what is she wearing?'"

In the second movie outing of the four Manhattan fashionistas, writer-director **Michael Patrick King** and producer Sarah Jessica decided that lookie-no-wonder downstairs, the four chicas' fantasy element should be amped up. So in addition to the Christian Louboutin-locked protagonists' new complications in their lives, there is regional vacation in Abu Dhabi which is supposedly backing the global arms deal the movie spoof with a gay wedding no sooner formally over the top that even **Liza Minnelli** shows up to officiate and then drag Beyoncé's "Single Ladies."

The sex part is taken care of by Kim's humanist, hilarious and ex-downright horny even in menopause. As Kim counted, even Khloe, who is 45, was asked about sex in interview. "After 30, sex is especially funnier because you know yourself better," declared the brunette, who is energetic, given to exclamation laughter. Hard's a contrast to her frazzled character dealing with two young daughters and trying to be Mr. Perfect. "I'm in different territory here. I think everybody is learning during the 20s," she said. "If your 30s, you're a little bit more adept...let's forget. In your 40s, it's nice because you just don't feel so needy. It's more chosen' but you are more at home in your skin and that's what people find sexy."

Asked about the rumored fashion tag among the girls, Kristin said, "In the beginning, the media attention was all new. When we read the infighting stories, we would get upset."

Just role playing

"Sometimes we'd be running out front our on the street and maybe on going in the scene," she said. "Then people take pictures, thinking we're signing. It is so ridiculous. We used to always shout at first now we realize like a little bubble. We know the truth. We've been together forever. We could never ever get through all of the things that we have done together."

"Movies are trying to sell their tabloids," Kristin added. "It's just not interesting to say that we all get along. You don't see them talking about how the guys in 'The Hangover' or 'The Sopranos' get along. It's not an interesting topic about men but continually interesting topic to talk about women."

Strong bond

She brought up a rumor that began in Morocco, which edited by Abu Dhabi: "If there's nothing to talk about, they just make up the whole crazy story about Kim and I not seeing together in the same restaurant in our hotel. We laughed."

Kristin added that it's hard to break a bond among four women who have worked together for many years, surviving work hazards like walking in the desert and riding camels in high heels. "I was worried about seriously falling off the camel because camels are really tall," Kristin said, smiling with a laugh.

The production did not skimp on Kristin Davis on the set. "I had a body double, a stunt double and a stand-in," she said. "So there were four of me on the set."

No catting around

The movie did not cut corners on the wedding scene of Khaite Cameron and Willie Garson either. This part is really an old Hollywood musical. "If I decide to get married, I'd probably get married barefoot on a beach somewhere," she said of her own choice of ring the knot. "But I did love the wedding that we have in the movie. I've never really been to a wedding that was that over the top. Between the stunts and Liza Minnelli, they made our job easy. We just had to be in the middle and react. It was like everywhere you turned, there was the beautiful cheer of the most grand dazzling singing been ever. (Costume designer) Pat (Field) really outdid herself with the costumes on every single outfit."

"I have been to gay weddings but never to one like that," she quipped.

Movie reward

The men who are dragged by their wives and girlfriends to this movie will be rewarded by the presence of Jason Dirt, who plays the source of Kristin's Charlotte. Well, here it is that Kristin said, "When I was doing those scenes, I was so focused on the children, because they were a handful. When I read the script, I knew what was happening. But when I saw the movie, I was like, 'Alice is so funny.' One cares really enjoyed those days. They were like, 'When is that gal coming back? We would like to shoot her scene more.'"

Looking at Kristin, dressy in her Lhuillier dress, we didn't imagine her jumping out of planes. "We flew you're working, they really don't want you to jump out of planes," she said of her love for skydiving. "So I have only limited times that they allowed to go do that kind of a trip."

Email the columnist at rvsepulveda_INQ@yahoo.com

KRISTIN Davis during the interview, in an aqua dress by Monique Lhuillier. "I love this dress," she says. "It has a comfortable feel which I love ... I love her."

TV 5

HOUSE OR NOT

FRIDAYS • 7:30PM

FRIDAY	MAY 21
Sapul	5:00 AM
Pre-School Shows	7:00 AM
Nick on TV5	8:30 AM
Face to Face	11:00 AM
Don't Cry My Love	11:45 AM
First Wives' Club	12:30 PM
Smile Honey	1:15 PM
High Kick!	2:00 PM
Hi-5	2:30 PM
Oggy and the Cockroaches	3:00 PM
Street Fighter	3:30 PM
Battle Spirits	4:00 PM
Nick on TV5	4:30 PM
Hero	6:00 PM
My Wife is a Superwoman	6:30 PM
Easy Fortune Happy Life	7:00 PM
House or Not	7:30 PM
Midnight DJ	8:30 PM
Akayron	9:30 PM
Lupet	10:00 PM
Face to Face (Replay)	10:30 PM
Juicy	11:30 PM
Jojo A All the Way	12:00 MN

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- shrek forever after
- robin hood
- here comes the bride
- iron man 2

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- shrek forever after (dig 3d)
- shrek forever after
- robin hood
- here comes the bride
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- shrek forever after
- robin hood
- here comes the bride
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- city of lies
- how to train your dragon
- shrek forever after
- robin hood
- here comes the bride
- iron man 2

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- how to train your dragon
- shrek forever after (dig 3d)
- robin hood
- here comes the bride
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luzon

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sm city general santos
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sm city iligan
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sm city cagayan de oro
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- robin hood
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- iron man 2

sm city davao

Series finale fails to convincingly hit its dramatic mark

"HABANG MAY BUHAY" ARNED for months and finally concluded its run last week. We caught its last episode to see how it would tie its nonstop flung strings together, and we frankly (dis-)appreciated that the finale failed to cap the telenovela with a convincing and truly dramatic conclusion.

One of the big directors was fired for Judy Ann's character was placed at the mercy of a quivering scenario played by Gladys Reyes. There we know that the deck is stacked.

Even if she was given a gun to wield, Gladys might come off as a pinyatang mahinapdotdot nemesis, as the finale's disappointed psychological battle was all for straight.

Of course, some people may point out that this is just a TV melodrama, and everybody knows that the actress in it is merely performing roles so credibility shouldn't be such a big issue. Well, they're wrong.

Within the soaps' cartoonish things are supposed to be crystal clear plans, to find viewers who implicitly believe that the show's protagonist is really being threatened.

That needs to happen, so that we can empathize with her wounds and feel what she's feeling. The heroine for them to "learn" emotionally from the viewing experiences.

If it's patently false and incredible, premises tragedy cannot happen, so the finale's real emotional impact is shot.

To make things worse, the obsessive jackhorse Judy Ann agreed to intone a really long and repeated monologue after being shot by Gladys's vengeful character. The result: another hugely disappointing moment, because the long "aria" was simply incredible. For one thing, when you're physically injured, you could talk a shot more, no matter how "heroic" the dialogue you're given to embarrassingly say.

For another, when you're shooting a film, you should do it with great focus, economy and speed, so you can't luxuriate or wallow in extended and hyperemotional displays of pathos and barbics.

Also, Judy was made the authentic evil, and her performance ended up being the height (or depth) of dishonesty.

The actor had talent did score a plus. It's one of the few local TV-film productions where the protagonist is allowed to die. That's a big deal: achieving that odds is the show's source of tension (people do sometimes die after being shot).

But, right after we mentally praised the show for its creative daring, the producers took us to task. Instead of a full-fledged and appropriate send-off epilogue showing Judy Ann playing her own daughter, as we all grown up and go solving/saving from college as a nurse, just like her mom.

Why the desire to placate the viewer here, who would have otherwise awarded their adult "thrill" on TV? Perhaps, but the compassionate only inside the proceedings all the more musical and pretentiously contrived), so it was no trouble whatsoever at all.

VIEWFINDER

Aristotle C. Aurre

Kris bows out in June from 'Buzz,' 'SNN'

KRIS AQUINO WILL STOP HOSTING THE show-biz gossip series "The Buzz" and "SNN" in late June, but will stay in the cast of an ABS-CBN drama series until August.

The controversial TV host announced this on her Twitter account, @krisaquinopino, Tuesday night: "I will leave SNN on June 25 and 'The Buzz' on June 27. I will be on Bang Tuyoy Magkaibigan until August."

Kris said she will go on a three-week vacation in August with her children Josh and Bimby. At "Pilipinas Got Talent," Kris will be a judge on ABS-CBN's new reality show, "I can still act, but a game show or judge's talent show." She hinted at the possibility of hosting a lifestyle-based program "with a community service component."

Three years after the death of a nursing on May 10 between Kris, her sister Bolly, Pinky and Tita Lani, ABS-CBN bosses Gabby Lopez, Charo Santos-Concio and Cory Vidanes. — Marichu B. Cruz

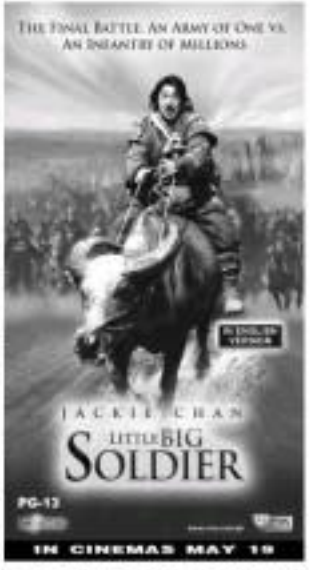
6 short films make the grade

OUT OF 40 QUALIFIED ENTRIES submitted to the short film category of the 2010 Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival and Competition, 10 films have been declared finalists.

They are: "Lalo" by Joey Agbayani, "Pwera" by Alfonso Ongkeko Cruz, "Breakfast with Lolo" by Steven Pina, "Mag Isang Tinggin" by Pam Miras, "Hiwing (Ilocos)" by Mikhail Red, "Twenty" by Arnold Teng, "F" by Rom and Tolentino, "May Bukas Ch Si Sesame (I Want to Have a Bicycle)" by Robert Tiba, "Crossing Bridges" by Sherigne Torre and "Sidlaw (Visit)" by Jason Vallente.

Now in its sixth year, the Cinemalaya competition and festival is a project of the Cinemalaya Foundation, CCP Film Development Council of the Philippines and Eventshed Entertainment Inc. Organizers said it aims to "discover, encourage and honor" the works of Filipino filmmakers that "boldly artistic and freely interpret the Filipino experience with fresh insight and clarity in integrity."

"Cinemalaya 2010" will be held at the CCP from July 9 to 18.



LIVING Stars
Editor Bernie D. Velarde

JOSE SARASOLA

I call my snapping turtle Dookie. I bought him as a pet years in Cantaur five years ago. It takes a long time for him to grow. But he was much smaller before... the size of a golf ball. I think he's roughly nine years old now. I heard that snapping turtles can live up to a hundred years. He'll outlive all of us. I feed him small fish. He's a primal part of my center pet collection. I owned a scorpion once. Now, I have a snapping turtle, a tuile fish, alligator gar and an iguana. —Jayzel Jun Dizon Jr.

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Paalam nAPO Cagayan de Oro!

Robi Domingo, nerd no more

Young show biz newbie hopes to be a doctor someday, just like both his parents

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Rony Ramilo

ROBI DOMINGO, MYE '07 ARE FIRST runner-up in the reality show "Pinoy Big Brother Teen Edition Plus," is studying to become a doctor, just like both his parents.

"Hopefully, after a few more years, I'll be able to help other people the way they do," said Robi, who is currently taking up BS Health and Sciences at the Ateneo de Manila. "I know that show biz is not permanent. Right now, I'm just trying to smile while the iron is hot."

Robi said joining "PBB" has changed his life in a lot of ways. "I used to be home by 10-2 a.m. Now, after 'PBB,' I get home at 10 a.m. the next day. Work is really tiring, but it's worth it. I was able to do lots of exciting things," he said. "My routine before was house-school-church. I used to be a nerd.

Because of my present work, I get to travel a lot for free. I was recently in the United States for the Star Magic World concert tour."

THE diary, "primitive," Robi says, is from dad Robert.

Gadgets

I don't have many gadgets. I'm not into PSP game consoles. I've got four cell phones and a lot of gizmos stored in it. My favorites are not the fancy ones. My favorites are not the EPG but the easy-and-handy-type of gadgets. The PSP is perfect while waiting during tapings or at the airport.

My Swarovski Lorain camera was a gift from an aunt when she came home from Japan. I've used it in all kinds of events, especially in MTCC. I take pictures of the crowd, the other VJs and the hosts. Simply put, it stores memories.

I'm in my final years in Ateneo. I always bring my laptop with me for my assignments. I chat with my professors with this Sony Vaio, which was what I won in "PBB" two years ago. It's very handy. It has helped me a lot with school work as a lot of times already.

I use my iPod for work. As a VJ, I have to know the artists and be updated with their songs.

This is perhaps the most fun, sizable headphone set I ever received from a fan. It's from Hong Kong. I bring it all the time.

LEGO watch from a "special friend."

WATCHING in fave TV series takes up most of Robi's time these days.

THE Sony Vaio is a prize he won on "PBB."

HE says this Panasonic Lumix camera "stores memories."

Book

My favorite book is "The Alchemist" by Paulo Coelho. I've read it three times and still I'm not bored with it. It's about a young boy looking for his purpose in personal legend. I'm a Coelho fan. I'm just not sure if it's worth him I'm following on Twitter.

Accessories

I'm a big watch guy. I have watches from Skechers, Swatch, Technomarine and even Lego. Too bad I don't have a watch endorsement. The Lego watch is a gift from a special friend. If girls have bracelets, earrings and necklaces, guys have watches as for accessories. I've been collecting watches since I was 4. I keep them all, even those that no longer work.

DVD

"How I Met Your Mother" is what suits up all of my time these days. It's really funny. It reminds me of the show "Friends" from before. It has adult humor.

ROBI hails news-making rappings with his Sony PSP game console.

Toys

This may not be the most expensive one but I'm so much people, but this is precious to me. This was designed by my dad, Robert, when I was still inside "PBB." It says, "Go and eat through thick and thin." At the back, is the former show's "One big Fight," and the footprints of my

Scent

Just like watches, I also love perfumes. I always bring perfume wherever I go, but my favorite I have 180. The Acqua di Gio by Giorgio Armani is my friend's favorite scent on me. It smells fresh. It's just like you stepped out of the shower. It's relaxing.

Eyewear

I like collecting shades. Moreover, a Brazilian friend, president most of my eyewear. But only what best suits your face. It depends on your budget as well. It doesn't mean that if it's costly, it's good. Make sure it looks good on you.

SHADES don't have to be expensive to look good on you, says this eyewear connoisseur.

HE prefers plaid tees to the more popular "statement shirts."

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